

M E M O I R S
OF
MAJOR EDWARD M'GAURAN,

(Grandson of Colonel BRYAN M'GAURAN,
Baron M'GAURAN of TALAHA,)

AN ENSIGN in General LOUDON'S Austrian
Regiment of Foot;

VOLUNTEER with Admiral ELPHINSTONE on board
the RUSSIAN Squadron, on his Expedition
against the TURKS.

CADET in the Honourable the EAST-INDIA
COMPANY'S Forces;

MAJOR in the Service of PORTUGAL;

AND

A LIEUTENANT in the BRITISH ARMY in
A M E R I C A.

INTERSPERSED

With many interesting ANECDOTES, relative to the
Military Transactions in which he was concerned;
and Characters of the most distinguished Person-
ages.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS

IN TWO VOLUMES.

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

VOLUME II

L O N D O N:

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M, DCCLXXXVI.

THE HISTORY OF
THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK

BY
J. M. O. R. S. & CO.

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED BY
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MEMOIRS, &c.

LETTER XXV.

London, February 7th, 1786.

TO COLONEL ———.

ON my arrival in England from Italy, my conduct had the good fortune to receive the approbation of the duke and duchess of Northumberland, and was by them supported in a liberal manner. Still addicted to enterprise, I proposed going to Ireland, in hopes of finding there some establishment; to accomplish which the noble pair made me a present of fifty pounds.

A 2

With

With this capital I set out. Arriving in Ireland, my fund was in a short time exhausted: when the Russian squadron destined against the Turks, were then arrived in England. This was an extraordinary opportunity for volunteering. I lost no time on the occasion, and got a letter of recommendation from the Earl of Westmeath to Lord Clare, then in London, and another from Mr. Warburton, brother-in-law to Admiral Elphinstone. With these I quitted my native country once more, and on my arrival in London, I waited on his Grace the Duke, who again assisted me with a small sum. Lord Clare recommended me to Mouskin Pouskin, the Russian Ambassador, who in consequence recommended me to Admiral Elphinstone, whom I immediately joined at Portsmouth, and in three days after we set sail; on the second night, being off Plymouth, we heard some distress guns fired, it blowing hard, and next morning missed our hospital ship.

ship. This misfortune did not retard our bold Admiral, who was eager for the standard of Mahomet, and wished to adorn his adventurers with a crescent each. The winds, as we changed our course, seemed to applaud our design, and wafted fresh breezes in our favour. Perhaps history, antient or modern, cannot produce an instance of such a quick and successful voyage. For I do not recollect that our squadron received any damage during the voyage, the hospital ship excepted, which sprung a leak, and put into Plymouth. In about forty days we arrived in the bay of Stephano, in that part of Greece formerly called Lacedemonia and Sparta, but now Misistra. Here we landed a few hundred troops, with a quantity of arms and ammunition, intended to supply the native Christian Greeks, who joined us in numbers, and many of them being supplied with arms, were not willing, as they at first proposed, to form into regiments and learn

our discipline, or take an active part with us in the general progress of the war. This they declined, and wished that we should defend their country whilst they only meant to skulk or defend their patrimony. Admiral Spiritoff, previous to our arrival, was for some months at Navarino; and the Turkish pacha, or admiral, who was by this time arrived in these seas, had orders to attack and destroy the former Russian admiral's squadron previous to our junction. Admiral Elphinstone received information that the enemy was near; but not apprized of our being in these seas, he slipped his cables, set sail, and the next day met and engaged the Ottoman fleet. Though the infidels had treble his force, Elphinstone drove them into Napoli di Romania, under the cannon of that fortress, to which he pursued them, and went with his single ship into the harbour, where he fired several broadsides at the Turkish fleet, which were
 busied

busied in landing 5000 janizaries, or land
 forces, for the defence of that place. I
 was left on shore in Sparta with the
 troops. Our intention was to cross Ar-
 cadia, and join Prince Dolgorouky, who
 was then besieged at Patras; but having
 little confidence in our new allies, we
 were informed that an army of 5000
 Turks were on their march to cut us off.
 Our situation was dangerous, and we
 should have certainly paid for our inva-
 sion, had it not been for the very fortunate
 and speedy junction of our fleet. Here I
 had the honour of getting acquainted with
 the Earl of Effingham, who served as a
 volunteer. This nobleman, for activity
 and liberality, deserves more encomiums
 than my pen can write, and seemed to
 smile at hardships on perilous occasions.
 Admiral Spiritoff withdrew from Corone,
 and arrived to effect our retreat. Mar-
 schal Comte Orloff, High Admiral, failed
 in search of Admiral Elphinstone, but
 missed each other. The latter returned.

Here it was necessary for him to take in fresh water, which he had not done since he left England. While Spiritoff and Elphinstone were concerting measures, we remained in our camp, on shore; which was defended by chevaux de frise, and surrounded by several hundred Greek women and children, who escaped from a massacre which happened a few days before, at Napoli di Romania, where the landed troops beforementioned fell on, and put to the sword all the Greek inhabitants, without remorse or distinction. Those unfortunate women and children fled from the carnage, while their husbands, fathers, and brothers lay wallowing in their warm blood, to seek protection from us, which we could not long afford them. It was death, by an ordinance of the Empress of Russia, for any of the officers or soldiers to seduce the Greek women; in consequence of which they were not admitted into our camp on any pretence. Amongst them, I took
notice

notice of a very beautiful young lady of distinction, whom on enquiry I found to be a princess of Palameda. Her lovely person and dejected situation gave emotion to many passions of the most tender and honourable kind. Affected, I mentioned her unhappy situation to the Earl of Effingham, who gave me a bottle of shrub, with which I hastened, and presented it to her. She smelled to the liquor, but declined drinking any. I produced a glass, and mixing some shrub and water, she then drank heartily of it, and gladly accepted of the bottle and glass.

The Arcadian sheep, with which the natives supplied us, I must inform you were lean and coarse, it being in the month of June, and consequently too soon to expect them in good condition; but their cows and oxen were the most beautiful animals of the kind I ever saw: they were not larger than one of our calves

about three months old, with small limbs, short heads, fine eyes, broad chests, short backs, round behind, and as active and fleet as little horses. Their horses, though small, are in general very handsome. The method of threshing corn in Greece: they mark a circle of fifteen yards diameter, then lay sand and clay within it, and work it like mortar: when dry it has a smooth glossy surface, and laying on the corn at full length, raising it two feet high, they ride a horse round the circle till the corn is trod out of the ear. But this I think tedious; besides, their straw is by it reduced to chaff. It is a pity that this beautiful country is so much neglected, through the indolence of the natives, and the tyranny of the pachas, who take from the unfortunate inhabitants whatever they think necessary or useful to themselves. By those oppressions they are, from being once the most brave, learned, and enterprizing people in the world, now degenerated to a cowardly,

ardly, ignorant, pilfering, wretched rabble, for they would plunder mankind without remorse or distinction of country, law, or religion. This their innate disposition, is probably the reason why the European powers take so little notice of them, not seeming to wish to free that charming soil from the daily depredations of the Infidels. They have plenty of wine and mulberry trees: on the latter they breed silk-worms; the silk they export. They have likewise plenty of oil and marble, but no market for either. My account of Greece is at present short, but shall resume the subject in the course of my narrative. The melody of the warbling birds, on the sprays of wild myrtle and jessamine, which the revolutions of this country did not destroy, still invited my wandering thoughts to remain on shore, ruminating on the curse that hangs over this country, which might be stiled the Land of Promise. I was almost distracted, when I reflected

on the many improvements that were of late made in my native country, on bogs, fens, and marshes : where by perseverance and labour, they raised groves and flower-gardens. On the other hand, the pusillanimous Greek seems ignorant of the fertility of his soil, and neglectful of the very fruits and flowers which spontaneously present themselves for his annual approbation.

In this contemplation, Major Pahlen informed me that the Turkish army was within a day's march of us, and that we must retire to our fleet, distant about nine miles, enjoining me, as he had a great opinion of my activity and military judgment, to cover the retreat. I was mounted on a very fine Albanian horse, richly caparisoned in the eastern stile, and twenty dragoons, as my body guards, to attend me. Here the Greeks on the march took every opportunity they could to get off with their horses, and our baggage on
their

their backs. I found my honourable employment desperate, and the Greeks dispersing on every side. I followed one of them, on full gallop, that got at some distance, who, on my coming up with him, drew his scymitar; I desired him to follow the baggage in the line, he resisted, and I shot him on the spot, and ordered a dragoon to lead the horse. Upon this the dispersing Greeks assembled, and continued in good order. I know you will condemn me for this rash act, but my duty in a manner compelled me to it. We reached the beach about noon, and Major Pahlen thanked me for my gallant behaviour.

Here I once more met the very unfortunate Princess of Palamedes, oppressed with every affliction that distress, grief, and despair could accumulate, neglected and unprotected, wishing for that end which she but a few days before narrowly escaped. I shall in my next give you a
more

more pleasing account of her Highness;
till then, adieu!

Your's,

E. M^cG.

LETTER

LETTER XXVI.

London, February 15, 1786.

BARON Pahlen ordered me to see the troops embarked before I quitted the shore. Lieutenant M'Kenzie, an active gallant officer, commanded the boats, and had strict orders to admit no woman on board. I had my duty, and the preservation of the princess at heart. She had at this place a small boat, in which she made her escape: it was now drawn on shore, and served for her Highness's pavilion, in which by the assistance of an awning made of her wearing apparel, which had a splendid appearance, and screened her from the heat of the weather. The inside or floor was covered with rich pelises, trimmed with the finest ermine. Indeed, Colonel, were it not
for

for her distress, the *toute ensemble* was deserving of youthful adoration. As she spoke Italian and French, I was able to converse with her, and we consulted how to effect her escape from the pursuing barbarians. In this deplorable situation, she ardently solicited my protection; and in the repetition of her solicitations she kissed my hand, and bathed it with tears of sorrow. I must confess that my eyes caught the tender infection, and I here determined to stay on shore, and perish with her, arm in arm. Lost in thought, I cast my eyes towards the sea, and at that precious moment saw a ship with the Venetian colours flying, approach our fleet. Transported at this sight, I in the extasy of joy clasped and embraced her in my arms, and then pointed at the ship, which apologized for the liberty I had taken. A dawn of hope now spread a vivid chearfulness on her lovely countenance, which was hitherto veiled with sorrow. She told me, that she had an
uncle

uncle at Venice, who was a Cardinal; and that her father had deposited seven thousand sequins (about 3000l. sterling) in that bank, and if she could arrive there it would in some manner lessen her sorrows, or at least rescue her from the approaching danger. I promised to put her on board the Venetian, and stepped into one of our boats, where I got a log-line about twenty fathom long, and fastened it to her boat, and ordered the soldiers to launch it; and taking seemingly leave of her, I ~~made the~~ line fast to the stern of my boat, as I knew it would be the last that quitted the beach. Her boat remained the length of the line behind mine, and it being now dusk, Lieutenant M'Kenzie could not perceive that I gave her boat any assistance. Our fleet being under sail, I towed the Princess on this pleasant cruize, till darkness favoured me to draw her along side. Night removed all restraint, and I stepped into her boat, where she returned with gratitude

tude the embrace I had given her on shore. She told me, that if I would accompany her to Venice, she could then convince me of her gratitude by offering me the small remnant of her ruined fortune, as a reward for my great humanity in her preservation. I told her, that I could not in honour quit the service, as we were at the eve of avenging on the Infidels the murder of her father and brother, but should success favour our design, I would then be happy to throw myself and the laurel at her feet. She pressed my hand in her's, and exclaimed, Would to God that day might arrive !

I went on board the Venetian, leaving her in the boat, and told the captain I could recommend a person of distinction to him, who wished to be his passenger to Venice, and would liberally reward him, if he behaved with politeness and strict honour, which was requisite on this occasion, and would gain him reputation
in

in our fleet, and at Venice. He promised to be faithful to the trust reposed in him; and I agreed he should be paid twenty guineas for the Princess and two female attendants. I put her on board, where she was accommodated with the state room, and in which I enjoyed as much of her amiable conversation as the pressing interval would admit.

My boat had by my orders joined the fleet, and it was time for me to depart. The Princess and myself wished for more leisure than those precious moments, as they seemed to us, could afford. Here contending passions, love and glory, struggled in my breast; the latter got the ascendancy. Previous to my departure she offered me a girdle, richly ornamented with precious stones, which I declined accepting, jocularly saying to her to preserve it till an opportunity presents itself, with the assistance of Hymen, to encircle us both. She modestly replied, Be it so;

fo ; then laying it down, and opening a small box of jewels, and taking out a cluster diamond ring, desired I would accept it, adding you cannot refuse this, it was my murdered father's. I readily assented to the last proposal, and kissed the hand that gave it.

The morning gun was fired, and the admiral's signal hoisted for a council of war. I took leave of her, promising at the same time faithfully to follow her to Venice, as soon as the fortune of war would permit.

In my hurry and confusion, I kept the ring on my finger, which Admiral Elphinstone perceiving, jocularly said, " Mr. M'Gauran, you should have left that ring with your mistress in England; for we came here to find diamonds, and not to lose them." I replied, that I could not leave it in England, as I only
had

had it given me by my Grecian mistress that morning.

This expression surprized all present each seemed anxious to learn the means by which I obtained it, but our time would not admit of an explanation.

The Venetian ship is permitted to depart. It was here determined to seek the Turkish fleet. Admiral Spiritoff resigned the command, although a senior officer to Admiral Elphinstone, who changes flags with him; we steered our course southward and in a few hours doubled Cape St. Angelo, and about eleven A. M. espied the Turkish fleet at about four leagues distance steering in search of us, as we observed by their course, but the infidels perceiving the additional reinforcement of four line of battle ships which were not in the last rencontre, they changed their course and seemed to avoid a combat by flight.

This

This was a noble, may I say the most pleasant and glorious chase I ever beheld. Admiral Elphinstone's ship displayed so great a variety of flags for signals that she appeared like a garland of a May morn; the weather being fine we crowded sail and gained on the Infidels very fast. The Turk, persuaded that we would soon come up with him, formed a line of battle off the island of Sidra, on the coast of Romania, having the bay of Napoli on his right, and the gulf of Corinth on his left. This situation enabled him in case of a defeat to take refuge in either Ports, which was thought by our Officers a very skilful manœuvre.

It was here rather unlucky for us that Admiral Spiritoff's ships could not sail as fast as Admiral Elphinstone's; the latter made repeated signals for them to hoist top gallant Royals, which signals not being answered or put into Execution, it is said that Elphinstone provoked

voked at this disobedience, and suspecting that their delay proceeded from cowardice, ordered, as I was informed, some of the loaded guns to be fired at the sternmost ships, in order if possible to bring them into the line of Battle; but all his exertions at that critical period proved ineffectual. It was then one o'clock. P. M. and four ships of the line with one frigate could with great difficulty form within shot of the enemy, when it grew calm, and it was impossible for Spiritoff to come to our succour being a league behind. In this advantageous situation we attacked a fleet of sixteen ships of the line, and cannonaded them till night, which put an end to the conflict. During this Engagement the Turks loaded some of their great guns with marble shot, one of which came on board Elphinstone's ship, but did no material injury. Commodore B. of Elphinstone's squadron, gave his sword to Mr. Boyd, an Irish Gentleman, who
was

was sailing-master on Board, and betook himself to his cabin. However Mr. Boyd gallantly fought the ship from the beginning to the end.

The Enemy, under cover of the night and the assistance of their row gallies, sheered off, and were not visible the next morning, when hot debates ensued between our Admirals. Spiritoff pleaded that he had no top gallant royals, as such sails were not used in the Baltick. I shall not here repeat grievances. However, I do not suppose that the Commodore's motives proceeded from C—e. Thus convulsed in Maritime Etiquette, we sailed in search of the enemy among the Islands, when meeting a vessel belonging to the republick of Ragusa, the Captain informed us that he met the Captain Pacha who desired him to inform us—Russians, that he was going to the Island of Scio, where he would wait to give us a warm reception.

We failed for Scio, and were disappointed; for the Turk had the preservation of his fleet and wives more than conquest or glory at heart; therefore thought proper to remain invisible. Here we took in plenty of wine. The son of Bacchus first taught the culture of the vine in this island; their red wine deemed the best in Greece. The natives of Scio, pretend that Homer was born there, and shewed us a place they call Homer's school, at the foot of Mount-Epos. In order to find the enemy and force them to fight, we sailed to Eubea, or Negropont, of which island the Captain Pacha is Vice-Roy. It abounds in corn, wine and fruit, and is joined by a bridge to that part of the continent of Greece, where antient Aulis stood. My rheumatic pains oblige me to conclude.

Your's,

E. M'G.

Vol. II

B

We

LETTER XXVII.

London, February 22, 1786.

ON our arrival near the island, we intended sailing to Egripos, the capital; but finding the navigation difficult and singular, our ships of force were ordered into Port Rafty, in Livadia. Admiral Elphinstone hoisted his flag on board the Count Cherncheff, Captain Dishington, mounting twenty-six guns, accompanied by the ships Panin and Orloff, of eighteen guns each.

With this little Squadron we sailed up the river Euripus, that divides the island from the main, about nine miles, when we heard a battery firing furiously, meant either as I suppose, to intimidate or salute us, when we hoisted Turkish colours, though

though at this time distant about seven miles. Egripos was the general rendezvous of the gallies : but being informed that there had been none there for some time, at noon we anchored within cannon shot of a small castle called Velno, when Earl Effingham told me it was to be attacked by surprize in the night. I waited on the Admiral, and offered my service on the expedition, which being approved of, at dusk we filled three boats with soldiers, in which Lord Effingham, Major Pahlen, and myself commanded. The noblemen seemed each ambitious of being the first that landed ; an emulation of this kind gives ardour to the troops, and a thirst for glory.

I reached the beach with my boat and landed, whilst the Earl and Baron were obliged with their men to wade to the shore, their boats being stranded. We surrounded the castle, which was by this time abandoned. We found here

four pieces of ordnance, one hanging mortar, a small quantity of gunpowder, some very curious fire-arms, inlaid with mother of pearl, coral, garnets, &c. &c. we left a small party in it, and returned on board. The Admiral went on shore the next morning with his two sons, one a lieutenant, the other a midshipman, who thinking the castle of no importance, did not demolish it.

The tides of Euripus, which is an arm of the sea, between this island and the main continent of Greece, are sometimes regular, and at others irregular, according to the age of the moon. From the three last days of the old moon to the eighth day of the new moon, they are regular; on the ninth day they begin to be irregular, and flow twelve, thirteen, or fourteen times in twenty-four hours, and ebb as often.

We

We set sail, and joined our fleet near Port Rafty, and cruized in search of the enemy in the Gulph of Corinth, where we met our High Admiral Count Alexander Orloff, and his brother Count Theodore, second in command, *per mare & terram*. It was then determined to sail to Paros, where on our arrival some of the ships that had been a considerable time in those seas required careening. I shall give a short account of this island, before I proceed on a very pleasant cruize.

Paros Isle is one of the least of the Cyclades, but remarkable for its fine white marble, and the noble ruins of statues, by Phidias and Praxiteles, who in a manner gave life to all the statues they wrought; some of which became the objects of divine worship. Here the natives shewed us an elegant tomb, wherein they assert Telemachus to have been laid. This isle was dedicated to

B 3

Bacchus,

Bacchus, on account of the excellent wines it produced. The chief town is Parachi, built on the ruins of the antient Paros; in the walls whereof are fine marble architraves, pedestals, and other exquisite pieces of carved marble, the remains of antient Paros.

Lemnos, or Stalimene, is situated in the northern part of the Ægean sea, or Archipelago; is of a square form, twenty-five miles in length, about seventy miles south of Mount Athos, on the continent of Greece. Its produce consists of corn, wine, and fruit; but their principal riches arise from a mineral earth, called Terra Lemnia, or Terra Sigillata, from a seal that is put on every parcel of it that is sold to foreigners. It is said to have virtue in healing wounds, expelling poisons, stopping fluxes, &c. We are told, that into this island Vulcan fell from Heaven.

Hence

Hence I failed to Tenedos, a little island opposite Troy, in Natolia; behind this, it is said, the Grecian fleet retired, while the Trojans broke down their walls to let in the fatal wooden horse.

The island of Skyros lies about seven leagues north-east from Negropont, it is near sixty leagues in circumference; the temple of Pallas stood here, who was patroness of it. There are still pillars and other ruins of this temple remaining.

Lesbos is situated a little west of Elea, on the coast of the Lesser Asia, the chief town is Mytelene, or Castro. Theophrastus and Panios, disciples of Aristotle, and the famous Arion, that charmed the dolphin with music; Aristotle, Epicurus, Pittacus one of the seven wise men, and Sappho the poetess, were natives of this island. At my time the

women in general were liberal to our sex.

Samos is situated on the coast of the Lesser Asia, opposite to Ephesus ; a chain of mountains runs through the middle of it, being of white marble, but covered with a staple of good earth ; this island produces wine, oil, pomegranates, and silk ; their muscadine wine is allowed to be the best in the world. Juno Samia, the Sybil, Pythagoras, and Polycrates, it is said, were born here. The present inhabitants are Greek Christians, and live in great freedom, being better treated by the Turks than the rest of their Christian subjects.

There are great remains of antiquity, particularly of the old city of Samos, and of Juno's temple, patroness of the island. I saw nothing in the east to compare to the abundance of stately marble pillars, which once supported temples

or

or porticos, that now lie neglected by the Turks.

Patmos is about twenty miles round, barren, full of rocks and mountains, without trees or herbage; there is not a river or spring on the island but what is dry in summer, but its port of Scala is the best in these seas.

The convent of St. John is situated three miles from Scala. The building called The Hermitage of the Apocalypse, depending on the convent, has a mean appearance: the chapel is about eight paces long, and five broad; on the right hand of it is St. John's grotto, the entrance of which is seven feet high, with a square pillar in the middle; in the roof, which is a rock, they shew a crack, through which they tell you the Holy Ghost dictated the Revelation that St. John wrote in his banishment, which happened in the reign of Domitian,

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A. D.

A. D. 95. The islands of the Cyclades are part of those in the Archipelago, but are distinguished from their lying in a cluster, or about fifty in number.

Delos, the center island, is about six miles in circumference, half way between Asia and Europe, and was formerly much resorted to, on account of its being the birth-place of Apollo and Diana; to whom most magnificent temples were erected, public festivals instituted, priests, sacrifices, and choirs of virgins maintained, at the expence of the cities on the Grecian continent; but it is now destitute of inhabitants, and only remarkable for its noble ruins.

Cythera, or Serigo, is a mountainous rocky island, and only remarkable for being the birth-place of Venus, and of Helen, who was the cause of the siege of Troy. The women of this island are very

very handsome, and easier of access than the Greek women in general.

The island of Santorin first appeared in the year 1707, by a volcano, which formed it, and was preceded in the adjacent islands by convulsions and violent shakings of the earth, followed by a thick smoke, which arose from the sea in day-time, and flames of fire in the night, accompanied with a terrible roaring noise under ground, like the firing of cannon. It is thirty-two miles in circumference, but uninhabited, and dedicated by the modern superstitious neighbours to the D—l; for here they say Lucifer holds nocturnal revels.

Rhodes is twenty-six miles from the continent of the Lesser Asia, and is fifty miles long and twenty-five broad. This charming island abounds in rich wines, choice fruits, and all manner of luxury. At the mouth of the harbour of Rhodes

stood the Colossus of brass, esteemed one of the wonders of the world. The harbour is here fifty fathoms wide, where one foot being placed on one side of the harbour, and the other foot on the opposite side, so as to admit of ships passing between its legs. The face of the colossus represented the Sun, to whom it was dedicated.

I must here conclude this long letter, and in my next take leave of Rhodes.

Your's,

E. M^rG.

LETTER

LETTER XXVIII.

London, February 28, 1786.

THE height of the Colossus, mentioned in my last, was seventy cubits, (about one hundred and thirty-five feet) and held in one hand a lighthouse, for the direction of mariners.

The Rhodians were once the most considerable naval power in the Mediterranean, and instituted laws for the regulation of navigation and commerce, called the Rhodian laws, by which maritime causes were decided in all the provinces of the Roman empire. The Knights of St. John of Jerusalem being obliged to retire from Palestine, invaded the island, and took it from the Turks, about the year 1308, and defended it against all the force

force of that empire, till the year 1522, when being overpowered and obliged to abandon it, the emperor Charles the Fifth conferred Malta on the Knights, of which they still remain in possession.

Candia, or antient Crete, called also Hecatompolis (from its hundred cities), is two hundred miles long and sixty broad, almost equally distant from Europe, Asia, and Africa. There are no considerable rivers, Lethe is the largest; Mount Ida covers the middle of the island, and is for the most part a barren rock, scarcely producing any thing; but the vallies are full of vineyards, olive, myrtle, laurel, lemon and orange groves, with a great variety of other delicious fruits, and fine corn fields. Their red and white wines are rich and fine; Jupiter was king here, and perhaps never tasted better nectar than the juice of his own grapes. The city of Candia, or Mutium, is situated on a bay of the sea, and

and was formerly a good harbour, but is now choaked up. The Venetians some time after conquered it, and held out twice as long as Troy. The Turks invested it in the beginning of the year 1645, and the garrison surrendered at last in September 1669, on honourable terms, after they had been stormed 56 times. The Venetians lost eighty thousand men, and the Turks one hundred and eighty thousand, during this obstinate and bloody siege.

Cyprus is about thirty miles from the coast of Syria and Palestine, and is supposed to have obtained its name from the great number of cypress trees which grow on it. It is one hundred and fifty miles long, and seventy broad. The air is hot, dry, and unhealthy. Their soil produces wine, oil, cotton, salt, and silk. Their best wine grows at the foot of Mount Olympus. They have a considerable traffick, and consuls reside there

from all the trading nations in Europe. While Cyprus was in the hands of the Christians it was well peopled, having near a thousand villages in it; but so thinly inhabited at present, that one half of the land lies uncultivated. The present inhabitants consist of Turks, Jews, Greeks, Armenians, and a few Latin Christians. This island was dedicated to Venus: the women prostitute themselves to strangers, thinking it an act of charity. The chief town is Nicosa, and was formerly the residence of their kings. It has been under the dominion of many nations: Richard the First, King of England, being here inhospitably treated, conquered it, and transferred his right to the King of Jerusalem, who gave it to the Venetians. It was since taken by the Turks in the year 1570, who have since that period kept possession of it.

As I am afraid that I have tired your
patience with my insular peregrination,
I shall

I shall here resume my former subject. We returned to the fleet at Paros, which was there in readiness, and again sailed in search of the Turkish fleet. On the 5th of July we saw them at anchor on the coast of Natolia, or the Lesser Asia, in a very advantageous situation, their rear and flanks being covered by some islands and rocks that lay contiguous to the continent: the Turkish fleet was considerably superior to ours in force, consisting of 15 ships of the line, from 60 to 90 guns, besides a number of xebecks and gallies, amounting in the whole to 30 sail; we had only ten ships of the line and five frigates; some of the ships engaged with great resolution, whilst others on both sides found various causes for not approaching near enough. The Russian Admiral, Spiritoff, encountered the Captain Pacha, in the Sultana of 90 guns, yard-arm in yard-arm; they both fought with equal fury, and at length ran so close, that they locked themselves together

together with their grappling irons; in this situation, the Russians by throwing hand Grenades from the tops, set the Turkish ship on fire, and as they could not now be disentangled, both ships were in a short time in flames.

Thus circumstanced, without a possibility of succour, they both blew up with a most terrible explosion, the Commanders and principal officers on both sides escaped in their boats, but of the unfortunate crews 1200, perished in the burning waves. The dreadful fate of those ships, as well as the danger to those that were near them, produced a kind of pause on both sides; after which the action was renewed and continued till night, without any material advantage on either side. As soon as it was dark the Turkish ships cut their cables, and run into a little harbour on the coast of Natolia, near a small town called Chisme: this
fatal

fatal manœuvre was either owing to the ignorance of the Captain Pacha, or to his want of resolution, for he persisted in the execution of it, notwithstanding the remonstrances of several of his officers against it, who foresaw and pointed out the danger they were exposed to.

The Turks had previously built some batteries on shore to cover the entrance of this little harbour, which was so confined that several of their ships received great damage, and some stuck fast in the sands for want of water. Thus enclosed and huddled together, like birds under a net, our fleet surrounded the mouth of the harbour next morning, and anchored within cannon shot of them. Admiral Elphinstone was at this time active in constructing of four fire ships, whose operations were intended for our nights amusement ; this being a part of the service to which the Russians were hitherto
stran-

strangers, they shewed a great backwardness in undertaking it. Two English Lieutenants, viz. M^c. Kenzie and Dugdale undertook the conduct of the fire ships, and succeeded; Commodore Greig, a north Briton, took the command of the ships that were to cover them, and at 12 o'Clock, P. M. with four ships of the line and two frigates, he approached to the mouth of the harbour, and engaged the Enemy within 400 yards, when an incessant cannonade and bombardment ensued.

About one o'Clock, A. M. a signal was made to Lieutenant Dugdale to run in with the fire-ships. He bore down himself upon the weathermost ship, one of his consorts upon the next in the line, and the 3d and 4th he ordered to fall on board the two leward most of the Turks; at the same time a lucky shot set the rigging of the Center Turk on fire; which

which added much to the confusion and danger, in a place where they had so little room to act. The sailors on board of Lieutenant Dugdale's fire-ship, were so overpowered by the Horrors of the night, and dreaded so much the result of an operation which they did not comprehend, that it was only by sword and pistol he could keep them on board; when he approached the enemy, and at length got within a few yards, being obliged to run forward to take a closer view, the man at the helm immediately deserted it, and with the whole crew jumped into their boat, and totally abandoned him. The Lieutenant, however, bravely lashed the helm, and seeing a boat full of Turks ready to board him before he could reach the ship, he with the same intrepidity fired the fuze with his pistol, and though nearly blown up, and terribly burnt, by some loose gunpowder that lay on the deck, he

he ran forward and hooked the cable of the Turkish ship, so that the fire was immediately communicated to her.

The Lieutenant, after this brave exploit, jumped into the sea, and was with great difficulty saved. The fire so effectually spread itself throughout the whole fleet that in five hours it was consumed, except one man of war and a few galleys, which we towed off in this flaming bustle; after which we entered the harbour, bombarded and cannonaded the Town and Castle that protected it, with such success, that a well directed shot having blown up their powder magazine, both were reduced to a heap of rubbish.

Thus, through the fatal misconduct of a Commander, there was scarcely a vestige left, at nine o'Clock, of a town, a castle, and a fine fleet, which had been all in existence, at one the same morning,

ing, and which the preceding day had a far more formidable appearance than the instruments of their unexpected destruction. The Turks lost 6000 men on this occasion, and the Russians about 900. The run-away Turks filled the coasts of the Levant with slaughter and confusion, murdering the Greeks wherever they met them, and endeavouring to burn the towns, and cities, at Smyrna; these ruffians massacred several hundred Greeks, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the Janizaries prevented them from treating the other Europeans and foreign merchants in the same manner, as well as from burning and plundering the city, which they several times attempted; nor was tranquillity restored, till the arrival of Cara Osman Oglou, a Turkish nobleman of great power and riches, in that country, who came with all the pomp of a Prince at the head of 3000 of his vassals and followers; and
after

after making some examples, and correcting the mal-conduct of the civil officers, dispersed those incendiaries.

In the mean time, the unfortunate Captain Pacha, who was wounded in the sea Engagement, against Admiral Spirit-off, and who, notwithstanding, bore the total blame of all these misfortunes, was, by order of the grand Signior beheaded, and Zaffer Bey appointed Captain Pacha in his place, but he had no fleet left him to command.

The Russians by this great success, became undisturbed masters of the sea; and having blocked up the streights of the Dardanelles, intercepted, and totally ruined the trade of the Levant. Count Orloff rewarded Lieutenant Dugdale, who conducted the fire ships, with the command of the Turkish man of war that was saved, and which carried 62

brass cannon; he also gave Commodore Greig the Rank of Admiral, assuring both that their commissions should be confirmed as soon as an express could be sent to the Empress.

Being now joined by numbers of the Greek inhabitants of these islands we, laid siege to the castle of Lemnos, the possession of which, from its vicinity to the Dardanelles, and having a good harbour, was an object of great importance to our fleet. While some of the Greeks were employed in this siege, a greater part betook themselves to piracy, plundering indiscriminately, under the pretended sanction of the Russian flag, both friend and foe, and filled the Archipelago with horror by their robberies and cruelties.

The city of Smyrna, was now in a most critical situation; its domestic

dangers, seemed equal to its power of defence; and an attack from the Russians, which was every day expected, threatened its destruction.

The inhabitants were accordingly in the greatest consternation; but the apprehension of such an event, was more particularly dreadful to the foreign factories and the great number of European merchants constantly residing there, to whom it would probably have proved fatal in the first instance, as they had nothing less to expect than to become victims to the fury and violence of the populace.

A deputation to Count Orloff, it was hoped, might prevent such a design, from being put in execution; to this, however, the jealousies which the Turks entertain of any communication or intercourse between the resident christians and

an enemy so near and dangerous to their own profession, seemed to present insurmountable difficulties.

The usual jealousy however of the Turks abated upon this occasion, and gave place to common safety; they forwarded this measure with as much eagerness as the proposers, and furnished a small vessel with a flag of truce, for the deputy, as well as some Janizaries to protect him on his course from their own people. An English merchant was prevailed upon to undertake this hazardous office, as it was thought, from the great friendship existing between the two nations, that he was more likely than any other to succeed in the negotiation: the same reasons however doubled the danger to him and his countrymen, if any misfortune had followed.

This gentleman after running great risks in his voyage from the pirates on both sides, found Count Orloff busily engaged at the siege of Lemnos, who received him with every mark of respect and regard for his country.

The Count informed him, that neither his instructions nor inclinations led him to offer any injury to the Christians of any nation; that the English in particular were held by the Empress in the highest degree of esteem and friendship, and that he should think himself happy on every occasion that offered of fulfilling her intentions towards them. He further observed, that it was a thing unheard of in the process of a war, to let an Enemy know, what was, or was not, within the intended line of operation. That it was besides beyond his knowledge; as such operations must in a great measure depend upon intervening

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circumstances, as well as upon the exclusive will of the sovereign.

This was the general answer to the deputation, but Count Orloff at the same time treated the merchant with such uncommon marks of friendship, and gave him such assurances that nothing but the utmost necessity could induce his mistress to order, or him to take any step that would prejudice his nation, as fully removed his apprehensions and convinced him that he had met with the desired success.

The Count at parting, among other presents, gave him several Turkish prisoners to take along with him, and told them that they owed their liberty only to that gentleman, and to the country which he belonged to, and desired him to attribute every satisfaction he met with to the same cause. This favourable reception of the deputy, restored

quiet to the inhabitants of Smyrna, and safety to the strangers. It would be an injustice to the character of Count Orloff, not to take notice of the extraordinary humanity, and generosity with which he treated the Turkish prisoners that fell into his hands in the course of this war. Among other noble instances of this nature, the lady of an officer of high rank in the Turkish service, was taken on her passage from the coast of Syria; together with her daughter, a fine child about nine years old: the Count immediately ordered them to be removed from the cruizer on board his own ship, where they were lodged and treated with every degree of respect, and humanity, attended by their own servants, without any restraint, and had all their rich baggage and slaves returned.

With the same spirit of generosity, he, in conformity to the Turkish custom, abstained from seeing the lady unveiled,

but

but treated the child when she chose to come to see him, with all the tenderness of a parent, and made her several valuable and curious presents; and the first opportunity that presented, he sent the lady, her daughter and retinue, at his own expence, on board of a neutral ship, to the husband at Constantinople. Such actions should not be forgot; nor do they require any other praise but the relating.

The siege of the castle of Lemnæ went on but slowly, and continued a long time; the Greeks, who were by far the greater part of the land forces against it, were languid operators in a service that required patience, labour, and discipline; and which presented no immediate hopes of plunder. At length Hasan Bey, whom I mentioned in the last sea fight, crossed over from the continent of Romania with 3000 men, and conducted matters so well, that we had not the

least information of his being on the island, till he suddenly attacked our camp before day-light; the consequence was, that we were routed with some loss, and obliged to take shelter on board our ships; and the greater part of the Greeks that assisted us were cut to pieces, or hanged without mercy wherever they were caught. However, the Russians some time after returned to the island, and not only recovered their former footing on it, but obliged Hasan Bey and his troops to experience all the severities which they had inflicted on the Greeks, and made several attempts, whether real or pretended ones, to force the Dardanelles, but without effect: and notwithstanding the unparalleled fortune that attended us in destroying the Turkish fleet, the consequences were not equal to what might have been expected from so extraordinary an event.

During

During this state of extreme loss and misfortune, the Turkish empire seemed convulsed in every department: order, submission, and respect to government was totally lost, massacre and confusion took place; and to encrease their calamity, the plague was a great scourge upon them; above a thousand persons being daily swept off at Constantinople only, for several weeks without intermission.

The destruction of their fleet was more felt in that metropolis, and was in itself more alarming to them than any other misfortune that could have happened; and besides the dangers that threatened their capital from our grand army by land, and our fleet at the mouth of the Dardanelles; their own run-away sailors filled it with slaughter, and actually set fire to the city and suburbs several times: at length these incendiaries were so strengthened by the accession of vagabonds and

villains of all sorts, particularly by the crowds of deserters from their army on the Danube, who had nothing to subsist on but plunder; and so daring were they in this outrage, that they came to an engagement with the janissaries * at Pera, where thousands of them were deservedly cut to pieces, and the rest dispersed.

Now every immediate measure was taken for the security of the Dardanelles; and all their remaining ships and gallies were fitted out with the greatest expedition to assist in defending the passage. The late Vizir, Moldavangi Ali Pacha, was recalled from exile, and sent at the head of 15,000 men for the same purpose; where the first enemies he had to encounter were the rebellious sailors, who landed in a body in spite of the Captain Pacha, and making zeal for their

* Janissaries, a name given the Turkish foot, or regulars.

religion a cloak for their avarice and licentiousness, intended to have plundered and burnt Gallipoli, and to massacre the Greek inhabitants: they were however disappointed, in this cruel design, by the vigour of the Vizier, who after killing a great number of them, reduced the remainder to obedience and order.

The Chevalier de Tot, a French gentleman, who had been consul in Tartary, and who was supposed to be a very able engineer, with several of his countrymen, were procured, to erect new batteries on the Streights, and put the castles in a state of defence. By these means, and the uncertainty of the winds, and currents, necessary to facilitate such an enterprize, all attempts of the Russians to force their passage proved fruitless. But in my opinion they never intended to accomplish it; and only pretended this manœuvre, to keep Constantinople in awe and confusion, as likewise to weaken

the Turkish grand army, then flying before the Generals Romanoff, Tottleben, and Prince Gallitzin, on the continent. The revolution in Egypt, nor the intercepting the trade from the Lesser Asia, by the Russians, was not attended with the fatal consequences to the metropolis that were dreaded, for amidst all their calamities, it was constantly supplied with provisions; in the mean time the winter coming on, the Russians were obliged to return to Paros, by which measure the trade was again open to Constantinople.

On our arrival here animosities prevailed, and having nearly as many officers as soldiers, it was impossible to gain promotion; and although I was nominally a captain, my commission wanted confirmation in Russia. In this situation I asked leave to return to Leghorn, which was granted, and the Commander in Chief gave me a handsome purse, containing
near

near 90l. sterling, with assurances of being promoted. Having now plenty of money, and on my return to Italy, I thought myself the happiest of mankind. In this pleasing situation I embarked on board a Maltese cruizing galley, and in nine days arrived at the island of Malta; but being in quarantine, and not permitted on shore, prevents my giving an account of it.

Perhaps the operations in the Morea previous to my arrival in that part, may amuse you, to which end I will give them, as I had them from the best authority.

The Russian fleet, which had left England in the latter part of the preceding year, commanded by Admiral Spiritoff, notwithstanding the great and friendly assistance it had met with in this country, arrived at Port Mahon, where it wintered, shattered and sickly; the same kind offices being repeated there, the ships

ships were put into as good condition as possible, and the men, from the benefit of a fine climate, and plenty of fresh fruits and provisions, soon recovered. In the mean time application had been made to the different Italian states, to know the degrees of friendship and succour that might be expected from them, upon such occasions, as should induce or oblige the Russian ships to put into their ports.

These states in general, shewed a considerable degree of reserve upon this occasion, and precisely restricted the number of ships that should be admitted into any one port at a time, and the length of their continuance in it; and in the dominions of Naples, the quantity of provisions which each ship was allowed to be furnished with was particularly specified: at the same time the garrisons in the sea-ports were strengthened, the batteries mounted with cannon, and every other measure taken, which if not sufficient

cient to prevent surprize or danger, yet expressed an apprehension and a dislike to the Russians, and their expedition, of which the Italian states were certainly jealous. The Venetians absolutely refused admittance to the Russians in any of their ports or islands: this resolution they firmly adhered to, and severely punished by confiscation of lands and property, and every other practical method in their power, such of their subjects in Cephalonia and other islands, as either fitted out ships, or went volunteers to assist them. At the same time the Venetians fitted out a considerable fleet to guard the Adriatic Sea, and to protect their islands and coasts. The Grand Master of Malta was invited by the Russians to take an active share in the war, and a requisition made, that they might be admitted to make use of the port of Malta, as a place of general rendezvous for their fleets, and for the equipment and fitting out their ships, which he did not think proper to comply with, and
totally

totally declined taking any share in the war; and limited to three the number of Russian ships that should be at any one time admitted into the harbour of Malta.

Some Russian officers of rank had been employed in the course of the preceding year, to carry on a negotiation with the Greeks, which was easily effected, not only from the mixed boundaries of the Venetian and Ottoman dominions on that side, but partly through the remissness and indolence of the Turkish government, the garrisons were thin and negligent, the ports and duties ill attended to, the Greeks were in possession of the trade and the shipping, likewise the only inhabitants in the open country, and had a great majority in the towns and cities: add to this, the want of a necessary communication by post, and the taciturnity, reserve, supineness, and indolence of the Turks, we must suppose informations very imperfect, as they generally came from the Christians. We accordingly find,

find, that the Russian officers not only carried on a negociation in the country, in time of open war, with the greatest safety, but sent ships, with arms and ammunition to their coasts, which were landed and distributed with facility, long before the arrival of the Russian fleet in the Mediterranean. The hopes excited by these means, were raised to the highest pitch of extravagance and enthusiasm, as soon as it was certainly known that the fleet had arrived at Minorca; and the phrenzy of the Greeks upon this occasion, can only perhaps be equalled by that heretofore shewn by the Jews upon the appearance of a pretended Messiah among them. The Russian fleet departed from Minorca in the beginning of February, and steered its course for the Morea; but having met with storms was separated, and several ships obliged to seek shelter in different ports of Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia, where some of them were obliged to continue a considerable time to

to refit. Comte Orloff, commander in chief of the whole armament, however, arrived at Cape Metapan, the antient promontory of Tenarus, in the Morea, and the fouthern extremity of the peninsula, on the laft of February, with only three fhips of the line, and two of a leffer fize. This country, the antient Peloponefus, once the feat of poets, heroes, and philofophers, being all claffical ground, is too well known to require any description; nor has the curiofity of modern travellers fuffered its misfortunes or prefent wretchednefs to lie in obfcurity.

The Count having debarked fome land forces at Maina, which lies to the weftward of Cape Metapan, and about fixty miles to the fouth-weft of Mifitra, the antient Sparta, the Mainotes, the descendants of the Lacedemonians, who ftill poffeffed the country of their anceftors, under fubjection to the Turks, immediately flew to their arms in every quarter,

quarter, and joined him by thousands. The other neighbouring Greeks followed their example, or rather only waited to hear of the arrival of the Russians, to do what they long intended; and the whole Morea seemed every where in motion. The open country was quickly over-run, and Sparta, Arcadia, and several places as speedily taken;—the Russian ships that had been separated arrived successively, and landed their men in different parts, where these little detachments assembled, and soon swelled to a small army. The Turks were every where attacked or intercepted; in the mean time, a dreadful massacre was carried on, and the Greeks gave a loose to their most base and effeminate revenge; the Turks were every where slaughtered without mercy, with every act of horrid cruelty; while, to the disgrace of humanity and the Christian religion, neither age, sex, acquaintance, or connection, were a defence against their savage barbarity. The governor of Messalongi, finding himself unable

unable to defend that fortress any longer, and expecting no mercy from the assailants, put his person into the hands of the Greek syndic, or chief magistrate of the town, who from acquaintance and connection he expected would either have protected or concealed him; but the villainous syndic, as soon as he was in his power, murdered him. It is said, and I hope it is true, that the commander of the Greeks had the syndic hanged.

The rage and fury with which the inhabitants of the continent were seized, extended itself to the islands; the desire of novelty, hope of plunder, and animosity to the Turks, operated every where, and produced similar effects; repeated acts of the most barbarous cruelty and blindest folly. Three Turkish ships that were collecting recruits for the army, put into the small island of Micone, one of the Cyclades, the greatest part of their crews being on shore, were all murdered

by

by the inhabitants; and those that remained on board, as well as the ships, saved themselves by a precipitate flight. The Venetian islands, notwithstanding the strictness of the government, and the severity of the proclamations that were issued to prevent it, were in a great measure deserted by the inhabitants, each hurrying to share in the spoil and carnage.

At Cephalonia, Count Metaxa, and several others fitted out ships at their own expence, and joined the Russian fleet; and the inhabitants, who shewed themselves disposed for a revolt, had an engagement with the troops stationed in the island, in which, though the former was routed, a considerable number fell on both sides.

Your's,

E. M'G.

LETTER

LETTER XXIX,

London, March 7, 1786.

COUNT Orloff, on his arrival in Maina, published a manifesto, in the name of the Empress, in which she declared, that she looked upon it as a religious duty to free the Greeks from the Turkish slavery; she at the same time promised protection to those that would join her, and the severest punishments to those that refused. It is a singularity, perhaps not unworthy of remark, and shews how strong national habits will inadvertently appear, when there is no cause to call them forth; that as fear is the operating principle throughout the Russian empire, from the highest to the lowest peasant, their public acts are tinged by it, though the matters they

relate

relate to are foreign, and out of their own dominions; and as sure as an honour is conferred, it is clogged on the other side with threats of extreme punishment for defaults, that may perhaps never occur.

From Maina the Russian commander proceeded with the fleet to Coron, which he invested by sea and land. This city and castle stands on the western side of the peninsula, about forty miles to the north-west of Maina, on a fine bay of the same name, and were formerly places of great strength; but, like most places in the Turkish dominions, have been long neglected and suffered to go to ruin.

The Pacha of the Morea had, during these transactions, collected such troops as he could hastily together, which being few in number, were overpowered and defeated in several engagements by the Russians and Greeks, and he was at length obliged

obliged to retreat to Napoli di Romania, a considerable strong city and port, on the eastern side of the peninsula. In the mean time the Russians made themselves masters of Navarino, a good town, with an excellent harbour, and two castles about thirty miles to the west of Coron, which from the goodness of the harbour, situation, and other advantageous circumstances, they made the general place of arms.

Patras was taken in the latter end of March; a very flourishing city, in which the Turkish inhabitants were more numerous than in any other part of the Morea. It is the metropolis of the province of Clarentia, and situated on the north-west extremity of the peninsula, on the arm of the sea, which separates it from Livadia, about 20 miles south-west of Lepanto, which lies on the opposite shore, sixty west of Corinth, and 120 north-west of Mifistra. This city, from

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the circumstances that attended it, seem to have been taken by surprize with great slaughter; the Turkish garrison, and such others as could escape, retired into the castle, which was immediately besieged and carried. As the Turks were unable to appear in the field, some that survived the revolt, betook themselves to their nearest fortresses for safety; and the Greeks became daily formidable, and laid siege to Corinth, Napoli di Romania, and Tripolizza. This was a service, however, for the undertaking of which the Greeks were very unfit; and the small number of Russian land forces (not exceeding two thousand) did not allow of their supplying the deficiency. Besides, the Turks made every where a brave defence: at Tripolizza, the besiegers were totally ruined, and all the Russians upon that service, two only excepted, were killed by the continual and successful sallies made by the garrison. It did not happen better at Coron,

where the Greek inhabitants being more numerous than the garrison, and the latter being worn down with continual danger and fatigue of guarding against a double enemy, (within the walls and without, abandoned the city, which was immediately taken possession of by the besiegers,) and retired within the castle. The garrison afterwards found means to set fire to the oil magazine in the city, with such success, that they reduced it to ashes, and making a fally during the confusion, made a terrible slaughter amongst the inhabitants and besiegers; the survivors were glad to escape to Navarino. It was said that they defeated a body of Turks, who attempted to pass the Isthmus of Corinth, but were obliged soon to retire from that quarter, a strong Turkish detachment being then on its march from Athens.

The siege of the castle of Patras still continued. In the interim, a body of
Turks

Turks and Albanians, having passed the isthmus, marched to its relief, and attacked the besiegers on the 13th of April by break of day, the governor of the castle at the same time made a general sally with his garrison, the city was set on fire in the conflict, and a dreadful carnage ensued: the Turks now retaliated all the cruelties of the Greeks, with unequalled barbarity; every thing became a victim to their ungovernable fury, and the city was burned to its foundations. The foreign consuls had fortunately escaped to the island of Zante; the son of the English consul, from some error or imprudence, ran a great risk of his life, and was most remarkably delivered. This young gentleman had shut himself up in his house with his own family, two Neapolitan travellers, and several ladies of the first families in Greece, whom he had taken under his protection, his whole suite amounting to about sixty persons. A body of Albanians

banians came with their axes to force his gates, in the height of the confusion; but he representing to them, that his nation was in alliance with the Porte, the Albanians, with a temper and humanity which, in the same circumstances and heat of blood, would have done honour to more civilized nations, took him and all that were along with him under their protection, and conveyed them in safety to the castle.

Here, however, their fear as well as danger was redoubled: upon their entrance into the fortress, the first scene that presented itself was the dreadful spectacle of heaps of dead bodies, and the executioners busily employed, according to the Turkish method, in cutting off the heads of the principal Greeks as they were brought in from the action, when they fell. As these ministers of justice or tyranny are little used to listen to either arguments or supplications, the
 unfortunate

unfortunate young gentleman and his companions were only delayed till it came to their turn to undergo the same operation. Most happily for them all, the Governor arrived in the interim, and immediately recollecting the Consul's son, took him and his companions to his own apartments for their greater protection: and they had the good fortune, the same night, to meet with a ship that carried them in safety to Zante.

Every thing went wrong with the Greeks after the destruction of Patros. The Turks and Albanians had scarcely compleated that service, when they received intelligence, that a large body of Mainotes were advancing towards the Isthmus of Corinth, with an intention of penetrating into Achaia. This they immediately marched to prevent, and routed the Mainotes, who left two thousand dead on the field.

The Morea still continued a scene of the greatest bloodshed and cruelty. The carnage at Patras gave a new whet, which was not at all wanted for the sanguinary revenge of the Greeks; which together with the cruelties they were originally guilty of, seemed to give a sanction to the Turks for taking that vengeance to which they naturally are too much disposed.

It is, in many instances, painful to treat of the transactions of the war in those parts, as it has been sullied and disgraced with acts of oppression, ferocity, and cruelty, which are happily but little known in the western and middle parts of Europe.

The Seraskier Basha of Bosnia arrived in the Morea, at the head of 30,000 Albanians and Epirotes, soon after the defeat of the Mainotes. This officer, who had so much distinguished himself in the
course

course of the present war, recovered all the northern parts of the peninsula, as soon as he appeared in it; and all the Greeks that were found with arms, or out of their villages, were instantly put to death: at the same time the bishop of Tripolizza, and several Greeks of distinction, who were charged with being the principal instigators of the revolt, were executed. The principal force of the Russians and Greeks were employed in the siege of Modon, which was vigorously carried on by sea and land. As this city was well fortified, had a very strong castle, and a fine harbour, it was an object of great importance to the Russians; for by the protection of their fleet, they might support a garrison there, and by that means preserve a footing in the peninsula, until by the arrival of reinforcements they might once more be enabled to dispute the possession of all Greece; its remoteness afforded a prospect of succeeding before it could be

D 4 relieved,

relieved, and it was the only hope now left, and was accordingly the last effort they made.

On the 17th of May, a body of Turks and Albanians traversed the peninsula, and attacked the besiegers with great fury in their camp, at one o'clock in the morning, and were well supported by the governor, who made a vigorous sally at the same time. It now appeared evidently, that the spirit of the antient Spartans had totally forsaken their posterity. The Mainotes, sunk and dispirited by their late actions, abandoned their posts as soon as they were attacked, and were cut to pieces, without resistance. The Russians, notwithstanding, made a noble stand, and fought most courageously; they did all that men could do to protect their cowardly friends, who if they had acted with only a degree of resolution, would undoubtedly have gained a compleat victory. They
were

were at length overpowered, and having lost a great number of men, and their commanders, Prince Dolgorouki, and Count Theodore Orloff being both wounded, they were obliged to abandon their camp, together with a battery of twenty pieces of cannon, and retire under the protection of their ships.

The Albanians now having no enemy to contend with, in the true spirit of irregular troops, fell to plunder the camp with such greediness, that they were soon in disorder: a fault not to be committed with impunity in the presence of their veteran enemies, who immediately seized the happy minute, and being reinforced by a detachment from the ships, attacked them in turn with great fury, and routed them in such a manner, that they again recovered their camp and battery.

This success brought together the scattered Mainotes; and the siege was again renewed.

The Russians now saw that their only hope of success depended upon expedition, and taking the place before fresh succours could arrive: they had a recent experience that the greeks were of no use against an equal enemy; but a confidence in their numbers might make them useful in an attack; a general assault was made, but the garrison behaved with such resolution, that they were repulsed with great loss.

The Mainotes now having despaired of any success, separated themselves once more from the Russians, and withdrew to the security of their native mountains:

The latter retired to Navarino, which they kept for some time longer in their hands,

hands, but nothing remarkable happened after this, till they entirely abandoned the Peninsula, and joined us.

On my arrival at Malta I was obliged to stop there eight days, before an opportunity presented for my departure: the time seemed short, though confined in the Lazaretto; as I was here daily supplied with abundance of the richest fruit, and the greatest variety of wines, at about five shillings per diem: I am certain, my daily entertainment, if such or any luxury equal to it could be procured in England, it would at least have cost, ten guineas per day.

I got a passage on board one of the Pope's frigates then returning to the continent. On the fourth day, being on the coast of Sicily, we were chased by two Barbary corsairs; we pretended to run away from them, but suddenly tack-
ed and fired a broadside, which did not in

the least intimidate the pirates, who soon ran along side of us, but were so warmly galled by the small arms and bayonets of the Papal Marines on their attempting to board, that they were repulsed: here I was wounded twice in the right arm by the bayonets; still I had the pleasure to see one of the Barbarians sunk, and the other fly in a shattered condition. After the engagement my wounds were dressed by the Surgeon, attended by the Chaplain, who gave me the benediction or general absolution, which was not disagreeable to my situation, though my wounds did not threaten mortality at that juncture, as they healed amazingly.

In two days after we arrived at Cagliari in Sardinia, being still in quarantine, and wounded, prevents my being able to give you any satisfactory account of this kingdom. Being now out of danger, and the frigate bound for Naples, and Civita Vecchio, I took leave of the
Cap-

Captain, Surgeon, Chaplain, &c. neither of these would accept of any gratitude from me, as they said the obligation was on their side, as I had voluntary fought under the banner of the holy cross.

Thus pleased, I embarked on board a brig belonging to Minorca, and arrived at Port Mahon in that island, where I was obliged to perform ten days quarantine in the Lazaretto on the Bloody island; during which time, I was daily visited by a boat from the shore, which supplied me with plenty of provisions, but found myself much distressed for bedding, as money could not procure that article.

I wrote a letter to General Johnstone, the Governor, praying he would order some person to supply me with a bundle of straw, saying at the same time, I would amply reward such person; in three days after the receipt of my letter, the Governor came to the island, and told me it
was

was not in his power to procure me any straw, moreover, that my request was unprecedented; to which I warmly answered, that a denial of that sort was unprecedented in that country that gave us birth; at which the general politely smiled, and answered, I will try to get you your liberty that you may chuse your own bed.

The next day physicians were sent to observe my apparent constitution; this part of the ceremony is very judicious, previous to being touched, or permitted to mix with the publick, for fear of bringing pestilential disorders from infected countries.

On the following day I was admitted on shore, where I came acquainted with several officers of the garrison: a few days passed, when a Danish frigate belonging to the fleet of that nation then at Port Mahon, had orders to sail for

Leghorn; I asked the captain for a passage, who politely entertained me; and we arrived in four days at Leghorn: where in return, I entertained the officers of the Danish frigate, and got myself equipped with a new Russian regimental, and every other necessary uniform for my intended search of my long wished for princess. However, as love is often frustrated in its operations, I was obliged here to wait fourteen days before I could procure a ship; during which time I amused myself with my old acquaintances, and the best Florence wine, which was very pleasant and cheap; till an opportunity now presented itself for Venice.

Yours

M'G.

LETTER,

LETTER XXX.

London, March 17th, 1786.

TO COLONEL ———.

IN my last I informed you of the opportunity that offered to convey me to Venice, of which I availed myself, and embarked on board the Hunter Captain Brown, bound for that port; but unfortunately for my most ardent desire of going on shore, we were, two days before our arrival there, boarded by a Russian privateer, which obliged us to remain in quarantine; but the Princess came the next day to see me, attended in a galley by several of the nobility; amongst whom was the Cardinal,

dinal, her uncle, as she then told me; they brought me plenty of wine and fresh provisions, assuring me that they would be happy to have it in their power to entertain me at their houses as soon as I was permitted to land: we were ordered to perform twelve days quarantine, to my no small mortification, for although the Cardinal sent his boat daily to our ship with a profusion of all necessaries of luxury, still my situation proved to me the most painful I had ever felt before.

Five days passed, when the Princess came along side our ship to tell me that she had informed her uncle of her being mine by all the ties of honour and love; that she had betrothed herself to me, when I rescued her from the infidels sword; and that I came now to demand her as my right; that she could not but hold her vows just, sacred and divine, as otherwise her happiness was for ever irretrievable,

irretrievable; that her uncle opposed her her choice of me, and had desired her to prepare to go the next day to a nunnery, to which she pointed: I marked the building that was to confine my hopes, you may be assured, with concern; however, I told her to comply with his orders, as I would seek means to release her from thence. She parted in tears, and my agitation here required more philosophy than I had hitherto given proofs of. Notwithstanding this circumstance the cardinal's boat still continued to supply me as before.

On the 7th day our ship, by a great swell, broke loose from her anchors, and drove against the walls of the convent: this was, though perilous, suitable to my most sanguine expectations, for I could freely have perished against those walls that held confined all that was grateful and dear to me.

In some hours the sea became mild, and our ship was not damaged, neither did she do the nunnery any injury. In this situation we continued till night; when I dressed myself in a private sailor's jacket, and seemed at work at the main top-mast head, which was close by the Princess's window, with whom I conversed, and contrived her escape.

There was an iron railing before her window, but of so slight a nature that it was thought practicable to file four of them, which done, a sufficient breach was made for her to depart undiscovered. The night was wanting to accomplish this, but to remove suspicion, I ordered in the evening two men with hammers to go on the main top yard, and there keep hammering till farther orders.

I was obliged to soften Captain B---'s heart to favour my design, by putting ten guineas modestly into his hand, which

which so far prevailed on him, that he told the sailors to do whatever I required of them.

It being now night, we speedily made the apperture in her window, and brought the end of the top gallant yard into her room, but from fear or confusion, it was impossible to prevail on her to suffer herself to be made fast to the yard, in order to be brought on board with safety. In this dilemma I ordered an empty pork cask to be well lashed and raised up to the main top-gallant, from whence by the dexterity of the sailors it descended into her room. I here prevailed on her to enter the cask, which she no sooner did, and seating herself in the bottom of it but she was instantaneously, with ease and safety, transported to our quarter deck.

Here it was necessary to lose no time in ceremony, but provide for a speedy retreat,

retreat, as Captain B——'s ship could not secure us from a pursuit, and he had not as yet landed his cargo: what was to be done, a small vessel lay near us that wanted a freight, she proved to be a Tuscan Tartan. I agreed with the Captain to carry us to Leghorn, and paid him forty sequins on condition of putting to sea that night, and resigning his cabin for our sole use. Captain Brown supplied me with sea stores while I plied his men with plenty of good grog: never was expedition carried on with greater alacrity than this; the English tarrs got three boats to help us out to sea, for which I well rewarded them. By day light, as the wind had favoured us, we were out of sight of Venice, neither of us wishing ever to see it more.

I was in hopes of meeting in the Gulph of Venice some homeward bound English ship, on board of which, I could
pro-

proceed in safety, under the protection of the English colours, and bring my Princess to England, but the reverse happened ; for on the 3d day we met a contrary wind. How often did I wish myself on the island of Pianosa, which had formerly afforded me so rural a seat of love with Antonietta.

Thus retarded in our progress, in search of a place of safety by the wind, our apprehensions encreased ; for as we sailed along the Pope's country, we could not expect refuge in any of his ports, as the cardinal would have sufficient influence to have us delivered up to our pursuers ; and our Captain grew intimidated at having such guests on board.

On the 4th day we met a Dutch brig bound to Marseilles, and Cork ; my Tuscan Captain told me he would return to me half the money I had given him,

on

on condition I would take myself and the Princess on board the Dutchman; nothing was wanted but the mynheers approbation, which the sequins readily obtained, and we embarked on board the brig *Wilhelmina*, of Amsterdam, and now thought our safety secured; but the Tuscan Captain betrayed us, nor was the Dutchman's conduct much better, for on the 5th A. M. we saw a half galley pursuing us, which alarmed the Princess; but I strove to remove her apprehensions, as I thought we were by the law of nations protected on board the Dutchman. I had left my wearing apparel on board, Captain Brown, having my sword and pistols and my sailors jacket on; in the evening their galley came within cannon shot of us and fired a gun to bring us to which the Captain complied with, and waited for the galley, that had the Venetian colours flying and by their rowing and sailing soon came up with us.

I had

I had loaded my pistols with swan shot determined to resist; and stood on the quarter deck, when the Dutch Captain ordered me to be carried to the cabbins and there secured.

The amiable Princess told me it was in vain to resist, and intreated I would not be concerned about her, as she knew the worst was only to be sent to a convent, which she preferred to my endangering my life; she therefore prevailed on me to desist, desiring me at the same time not to consent to my being carried back to Venice; as my destruction there would be enevitable.

The Venetian Captain came on board and demanded the Princess, and the English officer who had stole her; adding that he had information, of our being there by the Captain of the Tartan, who put us on board. The Dutchman did not in the least oppose the Venetian's demand, but led him to our cabbins

cabin. The galley Captain behaved very civil, and desired the Princess not to be disheartened, as he would engage that she should be received at her return with parental tenderness; adding, that he had orders to bring me back, but as we had reached beyond the Venetian territories before he overtook us, his privilege was null, relative to me; that notwithstanding, his instructions were to seize both where ever he overtook us; still he did not chuse to take a british subject forcibly from the protection of the Dutch flag, and on the high seas.

Hereupon the Dutch Captain said to the Venetian, you may take him if you will, alluding to me, for which expression the Venetian reprimanded him severely. I asked the Venetian, if he thought I was safe in going back to Venice with the Princess; he told me he could not answer in so nice a point, but said liberty was always preferable to mankind. The

Princess would not by any means consent to my going back with her, as she said if I did, I was certain of being strangled or assassinated; and prevailed on me to resign ourselves to fate for the present; but desired me to repair to Leghorn, and there wait a letter from her.

The Princess at her departure, from the convent had no money and mine was nearly exhausted. It was now time to bid adieu to each other; generous reader, judge our situation at parting; or may I say being torn for ever from one another. This tragick scene affects me too much; and I must beg leave by easy degrees to change the subject.

The wind blew fresh at this time which hitherto seemed to connive at my misfortunes, and in less than two hours we lost sight of each others ships: in two days we passed the streights of Messina.

This

This gale continued fair, till we arrived off Capo Corso, when it blew a terrible gale from the west-south-west: we struggled two days against it; but springing a leak were obliged to run for Leghorn, and arrived there safe the next morning, to my great satisfaction. I had given this Captain 30 sequins for our passage; and though he was not able to proceed on the voyage, he wished to keep all my money; but I obliged him to give me back one half or about seven pounds sterling, with which sum I went on shore; being well known there, I got credit for a suit of cloaths and a few shirts. I waited there above a month, but received no letter from my unhappy Palamedes. My money and credit here were in their decline; therefore worn out with expectations, I thought it high time to depart once more towards old England, and set out in a post chaise for Lerechy, and there embarked on board a Felluca for Genoa, where I arrived

the next night in hopes of raising some cash among my old acquaintance; but I was deceived.

Youthful adventures are never woeful till necessity imbitters the potion.

However, let no man despair, though ever so unsuccessful: for why should a man destroy himself through adversity, to gratify hungry worms, or his calumniating acquaintance.

There were a party of strolling English horse-riders, a Mr. Ware, and a Mr. Price, who exhibited their feats with universal applause. I became acquainted with them; and they were to travel together to Milan, and there separate. They gladly received me into their troop as Financier and Interpreter, as neither could speak the languages necessary in those countries through which they travelled; and I believe they could not find a person, whose address

address and desposition were more suitable to their perigrination, than mine.

We left Genoa; our next exhibition was at Nove, and proceeded to Voghera, Tortona, and Milan. Here we entertained hopes of accumulating a sufficiency for our farther progress; but failed, the Royal family being absent and the master of the revels with them, it was not customary for any other to grant us leave to exhibit.

In this situation, short of money, with four men and seven horses to support; it was determined to dissolve partnership without delay. Mr. Ware took his route for Vienna; Mr. Price and I set out for Switzerland. We travelled through Austrian Lombardy, and arrived at Pavia, where a regiment of Hungarian Hussars composed the garrison. Amongst the Corps of Officers was Major Comte Branicky, who was esteemed

esteemed a very active and enterprising horseman. He was young, and a favourite among the ladies, and consequently did not wish to be excelled in that science: to remove this obstruction to our operations here, and ingratiate myself in his favour, I proposed to instruct him privately, how to teach his horse to kneel at the word of command: he readily approved of my preliminaries, and canvassed a number of spectators for our benefit.

The performance took place on the 4th day, and we cleared about 12 pounds, no small sum in that town; particularly as there were but few people of fortune residing there, at this time. He with my assistance, brought his horse to kneel with some ease.

However, the Count grew jealous of Mr. Price's performance, which had like to have turned out a very unlucky even

event to me; for he prevented the Governor from furnishing us with a pass to proceed farther.

He moreover insisted that I should fight him on horseback the next morning, and charge each other with drawn swords only. I exerted all my skill among the officers to prevail on him to desist; but all efforts were vain, a battle was unavoidable: in this interval I consulted Mr. Price, who seemed almost distracted at our situation. If I should be killed or wounded, he was then in a deplorable dilemma, in not knowing the language; and had some hundred miles to travel, before he could meet any of his own countrymen to extricate him. I consoled him however, with the hopes of success. He desired me to ride his favourite mare in the combat, adding that she was fleet, and would save me in my flight.

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I went

I went to the military coffee-house and drew up an agreement between myself and the Count, binding each other to deliver to the conqueror the vanquished man's horse, to this they universally agreed; and I was to meet the Count at eight o'Clock, outside of the north gate. I promised to meet him at the time appointed, on condition that the Corps of officers would procure a passport for our departure, which was granted.

I met my hero mounted on a very handsome dark grey hungarian stallion, at the time and place appointed, attended by several of the officers. The Count galloped towards me, with an intention to cut me down at one blow, which I fortunately, parried and cut him on the left cheek; his horse by this time grew amorous, and threw his rider to the ground; hereupon I clapt spurs to my mare; Mr. Price joined me with a cheerful heart, and the hungarian horse, regardless

regardless of his master, or the military etiquette, pursued us for upwards of five miles, which we galloped over in less than fifteen minutes: the Italian miles are shorter than the English.

Our anxiety was great; for the horse in his pursuit, kept neighing which occasioned Mr. Price to exclaim, that the whole regiment was near, as the trumpets seemed to gain upon us, which was only the music of the horse at intervals, sounding hih-hih-hih-hee. I constantly, though in my full gallop, looked backward, and seeing no military pursuit, I begged Mr. Price would do the same to convince himself of our safety; but in this point I could not prevail upon him, for he bluntly swore he would be d—d if he would look back, till he came to England.

We now reached the bottom of a hill, and as the ascent over it was winding, Mr. Price had a favourable opportunity

of looking sideways and of seeing the coast clear; which in some measure, recovered him from the apprehensions, that had hitherto so terrified him. I dismounted and took possession of the intriguing hungarian, who by this gallop was more temperate. I mounted him and continuing our journey, by crossing the river Po, several times, arrived at Navaro, in the King of Sardinia's dominions, where my heroism was soon known.

We were here entertained in a generous manner by the Comte de Belini, at his own hotel, who permitted us to have a public exhibition in his garden, where we received about five pounds sterling.

It was now time to proceed over the Alps, and we accordingly set out taking our route towards St. Gothard, where we arrived in five days; after
crossing

MAJOR M'GAURAN. 107

crossing several dangerous lakes or
loughs in bad barks, that had no shelter
on board either for man or horse.

I am,

Your's,

E. M'G.

E 6 LETTER.

LETTER, XXXI.

London, March 24th, 1786.

To COLONEL_____.

ON our arrival at the extremity of St. Gothard, our guide conducted us to a very miserable inn, being the only one on this exalted ground; near it stood a convent of poor fryers, that afforded relief to all distressed travellers, in the hermitage stile, one of these fathers waited on us at the inn to invite us to partake of whatever they could afford, in their hospitable retreat; these visits are generally made to travellers of distinction that pass this road, who seldom neglect contributing towards the support of this institution. I gave the venerable Father a ducat, but could not prevail on Mr. Price to act liberally on this, or any Charitable occasion. The landlady of this inn was the most plain woman I had hitherto seen in all my travels; her person was deformed, with a countenance

tenance that at once might protect her from all attacks of gallantry; aged, and rather infirm, perched upon one of the Alpine hills, perhaps the highest, and most desolate in Europe: in this elevated station, I paid my addresses to her, not anxious about my success, which was rapid beyond expectation.

She spoke Italian, and German; in both I conversed with her freely; and my kind hostess devoted her time to my conversation, in so candid a manner, that matrimony was this evening agreed on.

She gave me a very tawdry paper snuff box, which had been the present of her sweetheart, a native of the Low-lands, who had courted her some years, and could only visit her once a month; she added, that he was a rustick clown, and that she preferred my person and polite address, particularly as I spoke (as she termed it) all the languages of the world;
more.

moreover that she would not have encouraged the Lowlander's courtship, were it not that she in her retired situation, dreaded dying an old maid; but as Providence had sent me, her apprehensions were now happily removed.

This inn could only furnish us with some rusty bacon, of which Mr. Price eat greedily, but the smell was sufficient for me, as I could not taste it.

Mr. Price seemed pleased at his good supper, and my mortification; when the good hermit arrived and brought me a fine roasted fowl, and a large stone bottle containing a gallon of excellent wine: in this situation, I was more fortunate than my companion, having one bird in hand, whilst the other was preparing the nuptial nest. My landlady having now regaled herself with the presents I had received, told me her apartment was adjoining ours, and led me to see it, which was a large

large room, gloomy and dirty, with a lamp burning: there were a few common wooden chairs lying about promiscuously; in the middle stood a large cradle made of strong oak planks, which contained two feather beds, between which she lay; the upper bed answering the use of blankets: this mode of sleeping being preferred on the Alps, as well as several parts of Germany. The oddity, or whimsical motion of the cradle, prompted me to continue my courtship with more warmth than it began.

I promised my hostess to return and rock her when in bed; she was after some intreaties prevailed on to condescend, on condition, I would not take any indelicate liberties from this indulgence; I promised to fulfil the covenant, which might have been held for ever inviolable, had it not been for the singularity of this situation, with the most ordinary woman that ever existed, the cradle, a stinking lamp, with

with a large pewter jordan, which if filled would hold five gallons. These objects and the wine filled me with mischievous schemes; and thinking I might succeed in making Mr. P. a little merry, by plying the landlady at intervals with bumpers of her own brandy, which she often praised, and informed me of many extraordinary disorders against which this liquor was a never failing antidote.

How to proceed now was the grand object, both my companions being mellow, and my landlady now retired to her apartment; when Mr. P. who did not understand our conversation, asked what made me so very merry; I told him the landlady had informed me, that a young lady, who had seen him exhibit his feats of horsemanship, was in love with his performances, and followed him from Italy, adding, that I had engaged myself to the landlady, and intended to pass the night with her.

He

He seemed very desirous of seeing his female pursuer. I told him the Italian ladies were not very particular, and would admit any of their favorites to their bed side without ceremony; but that I must be his interpreter, with this supposed lady, to settle the preliminaries.

I stepped into the next room and fastening a rope to the cradle, which I ran under my door, so as to enable me to rock it at command; I put out the lamp, and told my Dulcinia I would return as soon as I had taken a little more wine. I returned in the dark with Mr. P. the old woman being now fast asleep.

Whilst he was getting into bed, I had some difficulty to prevent the cradle from rocking. However, thus far my scheme succeeded, and retiring to my own chamber, now inclined more for frolick than repose,

repose, careful of both parties that placed their confidence in me; but to my mortification they joined in a snoring concert, which so much disappointed my merry expectations, that I laid hold of the rope and began to rock the cradle.

Mr. P. whose ideas sleeping, or waking, were chiefly thinking of his safe return to his native country, by the rolling of this vehicle, concluded he was on board a ship, and in rapture cried out, now Old England for ever! Egad! this pleasant gale will soon convey us to port; by G-d, Mack, I see Dover Castle; but falling asleep again, I rocked him more violently, when he hallooed that he was going that moment to the bottom; in this violent apprehension of death, struggling to save himself from the deep, he got intangled in the rope, by which he overset the cradle: this disaster, and the screams of the old maid, who by this time

time had him fast by the hair of the head, the fall of the cradle startling our horses which stood underneath on the ground floor, accompanied with an ass belonging to the Convent, who instantly joined his notes, altogether so terrified Mr. P. that he thought himself in another world.

Now fully satisfied, I entered the room with a candle; the astonished pair yet unable to relate their misfortunes, and not in the least suspecting the intrigue by which they were metamorphosed, stood still speechless, and gazing at each other with anger and confusion in their looks, wishing for an interpretation; when I interfered, and told them the house was haunted; and that I had myself a few minutes before, narrowly escaped from a regiment of horse; but had fortunately killed the trumpeter, which prevented the rest from pursuing me; and as I had just then entered the
house,

house, a very beautiful young lady gave me the candle, and ran towards the Convent. Mr. P. did not seem satisfied, and thought I played this trick upon him; when on a sudden, a bell tolling, we heard a chorus of audible fingers, which was customary in the night at the Convent: at this signal the landlady fell on her knees to prayers.

Mr. P. not knowing this part of the monkish ceremony, desired me for God's sake to protect him, which I promised to do. I desired him to come to our former room, and drink some wine, which he accordingly did; I then filled a glass and presented it to our Alpine Venus, who had by this time finished her prayers. She accepted my proffered kindness, but without hesitation, threw the glass and its contents in my face, exclaiming at the same time, thou deceiver! give me back my snuff box: this behaviour of the hostess pleased Mr. P. and she seemed

now

now more inclined to a reconciliation. A truce took place for the night; and a few bumpers. promoted rest agreeable to all parties, who were by this time tired of their unsuccessful amours.

We intended to set out on our journey and to descend on the north side of the Alps, but the wind blowing too high, driving the snow in such abundance into the roads and valleys, as to render our progress impracticable.

On the third day it rained incessantly, and the thaw occasioned by the fall, made the roads visible to the guides only; as the roads in winter are generally covered with eight or ten feet of snow, the guides themselves could never find their way, were they not directed by poles forty feet long, which are stuck at proper distances from each other, by which visible direction they steer their course; but when these posts are invisible by the height

height of the snow, all their art and practice is lost, and their intercourse with the low lands totally obstructed.

During this interval we would have suffered for want, had not the good Fryer served as a very seasonable commissary, in supplying our necessaries at a very moderate gratuity. Taking leave of our landlady, I returned her snuff box, on condition of a tender salute, which she granted, and we parted good friends. The same night we arrived at Lucerne in Switzerland, but the weather being extreme cold, we got no encouragement to exhibit here; so continued our route to Soleur, or Solithurn.

Here we exhibited in the garden of Capt. Miller, where we collected about five guineas. This was a Roman Catholic Canton: and the next day soon after our departure from the inn, we met the host in procession, it being a festival, I
told

told Mr. Price it was an indispensable ceremony to dismount and kneel, which he positively refusing to do, his obstinacy alarmed me very much, as I was afraid of being insulted by the populace. In this dilemma I alighted, and kneeling down close by Mr. P's favourite mare, on which he was mounted, and had been taught to kneel to his spectators: When the host was near I gently touched the mare on the knees with my whip, she kneeled down, which so much attracted the congregation that several ladies in the procession sent me word to stay and exhibit that evening.

From this humility of the mare, the officers surrounded us and condescended to lead back our horses to the inn. Poor Mr. Price, ignorant of their intention, thought himself their prisoner; his obstinacy provoked me, and I was determined not to remove his apprehensions for some time: dread, horror and confusion

sion at once seizing him, I was necessitated to ease his distracted soul, and called for a bottle of wine, which he instantly drank without the assistance of a glass: this composed him, and to my great satisfaction he slept about three hours, when it was time to prepare for the exhibition. He performed this evening in the same garden, and here he received about nine guineas, through the prostration of the mare, which was a happy addition to his finances.

We set out for the City of Berne, where I obtained permission for him to exhibit in the riding house, and performed three days successively, and cleared about fifteen guineas.

We proceeded to Geneva, a republick bordering on France and Savoy, we waited here some time in hopes of performing; but were disappointed, it being winter, and the inhabitants having

ing already seen several exhibitions of this kind.

Mr. Price having received a letter from a brother of his at Avignon, desiring he would repair thither, and join him immediately: I was now determined to quit my strolling troop. Mr. P. got an interpreter and set out on his journey.

I here sold my hungarian horse for twenty five guineas: took the stage coach for Lyons, in company with Mrs. an English widow lady of fortune, who put herself under my protection: as she could not converse in the French language, I acted as her interpreter upon every occasion.

The English ladies from their modest reserve amongst strangers, stand more in need of a gentleman usher, or a male friend, when travelling, than the ladies of any other nation: the French in particular,

ticular use but little ceremony or distinction of sex ; and on very trifling occasions, will intermix their conversation indiscriminately without reserve ; this mode of procedure they call politeness, which we would condemn in our country. I can assure you, that, in my travels through France, I was pleased with the sex as travelling companions, they being naturally volatile.

We had in the coach a young Languedocian lady, to whom I paid my addresses ; she received them with pleasure and approbation ; and though young, had learned the art of coquetry so well, that the widow thinking our professions too sincere, took the earliest opportunity of giving me a friendly lecture ; desiring me to be cautious in so precipitate a match, which could not from person or appearance, equal what I might expect to obtain in England ; adding that she had several near relations, to whom she would

would introduce me, not doubting but I should make a conquest amongst them. I told her that my time was precious, and I was not willing to let the present opportunity slip, that if I desisted in this courtship, she should give me herself as a security for my success in England. She paused, and with an air of indignation replied, I think myself though a widow, by far a better pledge than that French hoyden. This gallantry, and the jolting of our diligence prevents me giving you an account of Geneva, I will therefore continue the history of my amours.

We arrived at Lyons in France, where all our fellow travellers dispersed in a little time, the landlady of the inn waited on me, to inform me that her house was so crowded, that she had only one room vacant, with two beds in it, which she had, as she said, reserved for my lord and my lady Angloise (as she styled us)

having had information of our coming by the post; and as she always paid the greatest attention to the English nobility, hoped that Madame *Votre épouse*, would find herself amorous, on the beds, as they had never been slept on.

I smiled at this information, and conveyed the news to the widow, who seemed greatly embarrassed; and after some deliberation, replied that she had rather repose a confidence in me as her protector, than be left amongst strangers whose language she scarcely understood; but desired me to call the hostess, and in her presence, tell her to order the maid to be attentive if called upon in the night. As I thought this a kind of false delicacy, I called the landlady, and told her that my wife was subject sometimes to talk very loud in her sleep, and thought this a necessary caution to her, least she should alarm the family.

I made

I made the widow chearful with good Burgundy, which we had here on moderate terms, and repaired to our bed-chamber, to examine the premises, which she approved of; and desired me to retire and amuse myself at the bottle, whilst she was undressing. I readily obeyed this order, but on my return found her fast asleep. I undressed myself, and lay down by her. Some widows may condemn me for this breach of trust; but I believe the generality of them will coincide with me in opinion, that a warm bed and an agreeable bedfellow was preferable to tumbling on straw alone. It is certain, she talked or dreamed in the night of Paradise regained, as her notes were of the most pleasing kind.

In the morning she gently reproached me for my Hibernian assurance; still our friendship seemed more strongly cemented. My attention to her, and the severity of the weather, annexed to our

short stay, prevents me from giving you any account of Lyons, except this character of the maids: when a male criminal is condemned to be hanged, a maiden of Lyons, if she chuses to demand him for a husband at the place of execution, he must be pardoned, and the marriage ceremony be performed at the foot of the gallows.

In this agreeable manner we continued our route to Paris, where we partook of no public diversions on account of the severity of the weather, the streets being full of snow, which prevented me from satisfying my curiosity in viewing the public buildings and other remarkable places there; but those, though so numerous, are so well known that a description of them here would be needless. After a week's delay, when the widow had supplied herself with ribbands, gloves, shoes, and night-caps, to a considerable amount, and some lace, we set

out

out for England, and soon arrived at Calais, where we stopped two or three days ; during which time the widow was busily employed in wearing her variety of articles, for fear of their being seized at Dover as new and contraband goods : the lace, however, she very dexterously sewed in the lining of my regimental coat. Her scheme succeeded beyond her most sanguine expectations ; for on our arrival at Dover, none of her merchandize being seized, she told me to my great astonishment, that there was five hundred pounds worth of lace in the lining of my coat only.

We immediately took post-chaise, and arrived that night at the Golden Cross, Charing-Cross ; where separate rooms and beds were indispensibly necessary : to this new arrangement I agreed without reluctance. Next day she took lodgings in Spring-Gardens, though she had a country house at Brompton. I

visited her daily, till I perceived that she had many acquaintances among the officers of the guards, and but few of her own sex, which roused my jealousy, and made me suspect that she was too liberal in bestowing favours. Hereupon I asked her, if she was inclinable to have always a levee of officers about her; if so, that I must withdraw, as I was certain they would soon rival me; and without her own inclination led her to act on the defensive, it would be impracticable for me to oppose such a formidable body.

She candidly told me, that she was well acquainted with those gentlemen heretofore, and as her late husband, who she said died at Avignon, had settled 400*l.* *per annum* on her, on condition of not marrying again, it was not in her power to make me happy, except I could settle an equivalent upon her: moreover, that she had been long accustomed to a little flirtation, from which she could not, without

without reluctance, desist all of a sudden. But if I would content myself to visit her occasionally, pass for her relation, and go with her to publick places, that I should not want for a guinea and a smart cockade; adding, that she would in a short time procure me a commission. I told her, that I despised her influence, and a commission obtained through her recommendation: and parting abruptly, never visited her after.

Your's,

E. M'G.

F. 5 L E T

LETTER XXXII

TO COLONEL ———.

London, March 31, 1786.

I WAITED to make my arrival known to their Graces the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, who generously assisted me with a temporary sum, and ordered me a guinea for a weekly allowance, till I could procure some employment. Thomas Butler, Esq. land steward to his Grace, exerted himself in my behalf, and, with the Duke's approbation, as I suppose, recommended me to Mr. Roberts, one of the East-India Directors, who soon had me appointed a cadet in the Company's service.

About

About the latter end of February 1772, being equipped for India, through the liberality of the Duke and Duchess, I set sail on board of the Nassau, Capt. Arthur Gore, bound to Bengal. On board were a number of cadets and underwriters; the former much envied my superiority over them, as I had acquired more military knowledge than any of my shipmates, which occasioned some jealousy amongst them; and they of course took every opportunity of lessening this imaginary pre-eminence.

When we reached as far as the Canaries, to the southward, the weather was fine, and the gentlemen daily practised fencing on deck, many of whom had learned from the best masters in London; and of course were anxious to know my abilities in that science, of which several made trial; but I excelled many, and was obliged to encounter all, being above thirty in number: but, as Bobadil says,

F 6

I beat

I beat them, and would as many more. My super-excellence in this, as well as in many languages, gained me enemies instead of friends, and I was often provoked to act inconsistently with the maritime laws. I, however, had not philosophy or caution to guard me against the snares that were laid to work my ruin.

We had on board about 100 German recruits; and I was often applied to by Captain Gore and his officers to be an interpreter, when occasion required it; as I was, except the recruits, the only person on board who spoke that language. Capt. Gore, hitherto well pleased with my conduct, jocularly said one day upon deck, "By G—, Mr. M'Gauran, you are a clever fellow, I will give you the sole command of those Germans till we arrive in India: see that they keep themselves clean; appoint two serjeants and some corporals among them, that they may do duty with the sailors." I acquitted

quitted myself so well, that the Captain said, "I don't know how they can refuse you a company in India, as I will give you up those men on landing." Such professions, though jocular, roused my companions jealousy to a very high pitch; and they now concerted my ruin, and effected it; for scarce an hour passed without my receiving abuse from some of them; and a Mr. M'Culloch, who was naturally of a morose temper, and being my mess-mate, was urged by the rest to constant bickerings.

It happened one day, at some trifling altercation, that took place when at dinner, that M'Culloch doubled his fist and knocked me down; I recovered, and snatching my sword, gave him several blows with the flat side of it with the sheath on. This was an equivalent disgrace to that I had received. In the contest, some of the interfering gentlemen laid hold of my sword, and pulled off

off the sheath. Here it was reported, that I drew my sword on a naked man; and some of my adversaries said that I was in the wrong; moreover, that Mr. McCulloch had friends enough to take his part. I passionately replied, that they were all recruits; and if Captain Gore did not see me justified, that there were 100 German recruits ready to assist me.

This rash and unguarded expression being soon envenomed, it was construed in a very dangerous manner; and nothing but the dread of a mutiny now murmured amongst those that gloried in my misfortunes. They had the pleasure and I the mortification of seeing a long bar of iron brought upon the quarter deck, which was near an hundred weight: it was contrived by an arch in the middle of it, to come almost around the instep, and thus locked to it, I was obliged to sit on the deck, as the construction of it would not admit me to stand. I remained
several

several days and nights in this situation, exposed to the open air; when two ladies, that were passengers on board, viz. Miss Banks and Miss Tately, on a matrimonial expedition to India, at the time we were crossing the Tropic of Cancer, interceded in my behalf with Capt. Gore for my liberty, or at least some little indulgence.

It could not be supposed that an application from two such amiable young ladies could fail of success: and although I did not obtain my liberty, yet I was admitted down to my birth where I had formerly slept; and by the assistance of a little grog, I plied the quarter-masters with, they generally left my leg unlocked in the night time.

As soon as we arrived at Port Praya, in the island of St. Jago, one of the Cape de Verde islands, on the coast of Africa, I was again restored to liberty, so far, as to be eased of my iron bar. It seems, however,

however, that some of the gentlemen on board hinted to Captain Gore, that a duel, or perhaps more, would be the consequence, if I was admitted to go on shore along with the rest of the cadets. To prevent this, Capt. Gore gave orders that I should not be permitted to go on shore. Soon after he took me to his cabin, and advised me not to proceed to India; for that my conduct would appear so heinous, that my life would be in danger, if tried by a court martial: that I could expect no favour except being shot in preference to being hanged. Thus intimidated, he moreover told me, if I continued the rest of the voyage, he should be obliged to continue my iron.

In this situation it was hard for me to judge for myself: by discontinuing the voyage, I was sure of incurring the Duke's displeasure; whereas I had nothing flattering in India but speedy death. Whilst in agitation, not knowing what to determine

determine upon, Captain Gore interrupted, by saying, here is an English vessel, the Generous Planter, Capt. Smith, bound to the West-Indies; "I will speak to him (said he) perhaps he will give you a passage thither; where you may get an establishment or at least a ship to carry you to Europe. I accepted this proposal, and agreed to go with Captain Smith, in his boat, that night.

I had an order on Capt. Gore for 20l. sterling, which he paid me; and I was possessed of a very good bust in wax of the king of Prussia, which I bought at a pawnbroker's in London, previous to my departure, for a guinea and a half; it was in a small glass case, about the size of a quarto volume. This wax King of Prussia attracted great admiration on board; and many wished to purchase it. I here condescended to have it raffled for; which being approved of, I had 40 adventurers, at five shillings each. Having

ving received their money, I left his Majesty at the mercy of the contending heroes; and putting my baggage into Capt. Smith's boat, and thanking the ladies for their kind intercession, went on board the Generous Planter, where I supped, and was put to bed in the cabin.

Some time after, Capt. Smith returned in Capt. Gore's boat; and finding that I was in bed, he desired I would get up and drink with him, adding, that his friend, Capt. Gore, had informed him, that I was a d——d brave fellow, though I had enemies on board. Capt. Gore thought to depart the next morning, but the wind changing prevented him. Capt. Smith and I got mellow with good Madeira wine, and repaired to bed.

Next morning, when at breakfast, we saw the Naffau's boat making towards the shore, full of gentlemen. Capt. Smith
said,

said, "There are the fellows who prevented your chance of making your fortune. I would have a knock at them, or lose my life: you are no prisoner on board my ship: I shall soon go on shore, and you may if you like. I was not behind hand, and when we arrived at the town of Praya, which stands near the port, I saw the natives hastening to the church. I told Capt. Smith, in the sea phrase, that I would go and have a mouthful of prayers. He said that they were all Papists. I answered and told him, I did not care what they were, if it was a place of Christian worship. I went into the church-yard, while the Captain went to converse with some of the Nassau's officers which he saw at some distance.

Soon after my arrival in the church, I saw a black priest approach the altar, and to my surprize begin to celebrate the Mass; this being the first clergyman I ever

ever beheld that could with propriety be stiled black and all black. Mass was not half over, when three of my former malicious comrades, belonging to the Indiaman, entered the church with their hats on, and behaved otherwise very ridiculous to the black women, then at their devotion. They cried aloud to me, saying that I came there to worship the Devil, and that they came to have my body for dissection. Thus menaced (the congregation perceiving my confusion) I drew my sword, and flew at them with great fury, and attacked the first that had his sword drawn, and wounded him; the other flying out of the church, they both attacked me at once. Now the whole congregation, men and women, took my part, and pelted the heroes with stones to the beach, where they were obliged to take refuge in their boats; and some others that were strolling in the town would have shared their fate, had I not interceded with the natives

in their behalf: nor did any of the Nassau's military gentlemen visit the shore any more.

The natives, little suspecting that I had been previously at variance with those gentry, thought all I resented was their prophane behaviour in the church. I did not think it policy to undeceive them in this point, by which accident I became a great favourite with the governor and people. It was pleasant to see their gratitude, some bringing the only kind of fruit that grows there, except cocoa nuts, and the Banana, others bringing eggs and milk, as if I could devour a bushel a day. I paid for those things, which were very cheap, though they were offered me gratis, and I put them on board Capt. Smith, where the whole crew employed themselves in making of plumb-pudding, having now plenty of eggs. The Governor invited me to dine every day at his table, and gave

gave a saddle horse and black servant to attend me. He was so much charmed with my method of using the firelock, that he could admire me with ecstasy for hours at a time.

He exerted all his efforts to prevail upon me to remain upon the island, and in the service of Portugal. Having but little cash, and no friends in the West-Indies, I thought my chance there but indifferent, and gave way to the Governor's importunities, who hereupon appointed me major, with the rank of adjutant-general and muster-master of all the black and white troops of these islands, with 1*l.* 16*s.* *per diem*, a house, and half a dozen black servants for my own private use, besides his table. This was a flattering situation for a youth who had in his travels imbibed a little vanity; and what was more, I was, without flattery the whitest man on the island for those of the Portuguese which were

called white men, they looked to me more hateful than the blacks, as their colour looked something like a mouldy lemon.

I preferred this station, and Captain Smith set sail for Jamaica. It being now April, the weather was very hot, and the usual time of their annual reviews drawing nigh, the Governor issued orders that all the officers in the island should attend me, to learn the military exercise; likewise one officer from each of the adjacent islands; so that he was determined to keep me employed. I kept to this discipline for about a month, when it was thought proper that I should go through the island to see the men exercised. This new order pleased me much, being naturally fond of variety.

In a valley, in the inland part of the island, lived the daughter of a former governor, who was called handsome, and the

the whitest woman on the island. She had been married very young to a black colonel of horse, by whom she had one mulatto daughter: her husband died young of the small pox, for the widow was at this time but twenty years old. While my duty required my delay in this valley, I lodged by invitation in her house, it being the best, or at least the neatest in the island. The widow was far from being ordinary, and would even in England deserve the title of a pretty brunette.

This, be assured, was the most pleasing treasure that Fortune could enrich me with on this almost barren island. The valley was cool and pleasant, with a rivulet (the only one upon the island) bordered with cocoa and banana trees. The romantic situation pleased me much, I thought it a paradise in my condition, nor do I now imagine I could ever wish myself happier upon earth than in the

solitude

solitude I there enjoyed, when my martial toil was over, were it not for the excessive heat of the climate, which was too extreme for my constitution. The widow spoke the French language pretty well, so that we were able to converse together. A few days only passed, when I gave her some hints of my esteem for her, when she told me, that she could not, in that part of the world, think that a youth like me could sit himself down contented with her and her little estate, which, though small, was the most fruitful and valuable on the island: that gallantry, however, would not gain her, as she was virtuously bred; but, if matrimony was agreeable to me, and not otherwise engaged, she should think herself the happiest of her sex, if blest with my affection on those terms.

This declaration was made with a modest passion, which seemed to wish for my concurrence only. I must confess I

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was

was here at a loss what answer to make ; but had recourse to this stratagem, and told her, that I had a very wealthy relation in England, who on marrying without his approbation, might probably leave me not a shilling : promising her that she should remain assured of my affection, till I could obtain the wished for permission, with which she seemed satisfied. Our friendship continued, and we were held in the same light as if really married ; in a short time after she fell sick of a fever, and being apprehensive of her speedy dissolution, she gave me the key of her bureau, and desired me to take from thence a bag containing 200 pistoles, saying, “ in giving you this sum, I do not in the least injure my daughter, for after my decease Government will seize on it as their property, though without any right to it, except by an arbitrary custom, which is now a prevalent law.” She desired I would at-

tend

tend her funeral, as husband and chief mourner.

In a few days she died, and I took care to fulfill all her injunctions, to the great satisfaction of the natives; though my military employment required all my time and attention. I conveyed the bag to my quarters, but was afraid of its being there discovered; though the governor did not know what money I had in my possession, at the time I landed.]

I now wished for an opportunity of returning to England; but such very seldom happened; for though numbers of European ships, bound to the East and West-Indies, touch there, when outward bound, it is very rare that any homeward bound vessels make that port: patience, however, was now as necessary as upon any former occasion.

Notwithstanding that I had taught all the officers how to make muster and roll-calls, I found but little improvement in their method of conducting either.

It was now time to review the troops, or, more properly speaking, the rabble: amongst this black army was a regiment of horse, who appeared at a distance tolerable well, but on closer inspection I found them bare-legged and bare-footed, the heel naked, decorated with a huge spur; their fire-arms were of the worst sort I ever beheld; and as to their cloathing, it was really fanciful in the extreme; for they wore all the colours and manufactures of the different countries in Europe they could procure by chance. Their horses, though small, were very fleet, and in good condition, but rather thin and lean; this I imputed to their being originally of the Arabian breed. Their muster-roll was the most irregular I ever beheld; for when a man

was called to pass, he was perhaps huddled up in the middle of the troop, and not able to single himself for some minutes. I saw this muster of 500 men, which lasted above three hours: however, this done, I ordered the men to be drawn up on foot that evening, and obliged the adjutants to set down their names as they stood: this being done, I ordered a muster the next day, which was passed with ease in about an hour's time. I was highly applauded for this improvement, and the troops got leave to disperse. I had nothing now left to amuse me, except killing wild Guinea hens, which were here in great abundance, and monkey hunting, as those sort of animals were to be found here in large herds.

This island produces the green monkey allowed to be the handsomest of any other of that species. Nothing could surpass the various droll and laughable

G 3. tricks

tricks of those animals, when together in large droves; as they are not very shy, except when pursued by dogs; on this occasion they betake to trees, or the rocks to avoid them.

I am,

Your's,

E. M'G.

LETTER

LETTER XXXIII.

London, April 6, 1786.

TO COLONEL ———.

IT was now near their Tornadoes, or rainy season, being about the latter end of July. They seldom have any rain throughout the year, excepting about six weeks at this season, which is very unwholesome. At this period from the constant rain, the earth, which the rest of the year appears like barren sand now receives a green coat; and the grass growing so rapidly, that I saw it myself grow a yard long in 20 days; at which height it must be cut down, or it will fall and rot, by the weight of the incessant

fant rain. Some of the richer sort of the inhabitants strive with great difficulty to make a little hay, by drying it in out-houses. At this time all their cattle get so rapidly fat, that the natives are afraid to drive or work them, for fear of bursting; and it is certain, that their horses, after this season, look more smooth than ours, though kept in body cloths.

I had an attack of a fever, which was pretty violent, and having no great confidence in a kind of a doctor of physick, who resided here, I had recourse to some of Dr. James's powders, which I carried with me, and had the salutary effect they were intended for.

Being now recovered, I was determined to quit my exalted station, as soon as Fortune blessed me with a favourable opportunity: and making my intention known to the Governor, he in vain endeavoured

deavoured to dissuade me from this resolution, telling me he could not give me my pay till the annual ships came from Portugal. I removed this difficulty by telling him, I would accept an order on the Secretary of War at Lisbon. To this he assented, and gave me recommendations to the then Marquis of Pombal, prime minister of state; tho' properly speaking, he was not prime minister only, but the reigning tyrant of Portugal.

In a few days, the *Charming Polly* sloop, of Newport, in the Isle of Wight, burthen 25 tons, Edward Thackstone, master, who had been at Senegal, with dispatches to governor O'Hare, and on his return, put into Port Praya, to my inexpressible joy. Captain Thackstone was not overloaded with provisions, and had no objection to a passenger of my distinguished rank; having at this time a rare collection of monkeys and Guinea

hens ; and fresh provisions being necessary, I procured plenty of sheep, goats, fowls, turkeys, and hogs. Having put those on board, the captain and his crew, consisting only of three men and a boy, seemed highly pleased at such a profusion of luxury ; in addition to this, I got several gallons of rum, and a quantity of tobacco in leaf, all the produce of the island : and, though my cargo seemed to fill the little sloop, the whole did not cost me more than the trifling sum of 5*l*. I then, and not before, asked Capt. Thackstone what sum he would demand for my passage to England. He replied, if I permitted him to partake with me of the fresh provisions, my passage would thereby be amply paid for. This being the conclusion of our treaty, I declared on deck, that we should have but one table, to which the crew should likewise have free access. This generous proclamation, which was confirmed with plenty of grog, gained me great applause.

We

We set sail: the cabin of the sloop being small, I had my cot slung between decks among my domestic animals, and often was highly diverted with this romantic entertainment. The monkeys, in particular, soon became the most dextrous sailors I had hitherto beheld; notwithstanding, as they were very fond of being on the mast and yards, some of them were by the shifting of the sails tossed overboard and drowned. It was pleasant to see with what activity they would steal a biscuit, and when pursued run up with it to the mast head.

When we arrived about the Tropic of Cancer, we caught that wonderful and curious fish called a dolphin. Though some people are so ignorant as to believe there is no such fish, I am convinced to the contrary, for I saw it living in all its beautiful lustre; it is impossible for pen to describe, or pencil to paint any thing equal to its beauties; for it displays a

thousand different colours at once, and can change them instantaneously, so that a dolphin has a more pleasing variety than all the gems, paintings, and lustres upon earth, if assembled in a group together: this fish being cut up in slices and fried, eats like veal cutlets. In this latitude several flying fish came on board of us; they are about the size of a large sprat, with very large fins, which are so fine, that when pursued by the dolphin, they spring a great height above the surface of the water; and their fins serve them whilst wet for temporary wings, but when dry in the air, the fish having no farther power, drop promiscuously. I had one preserved in rum, and I would have certainly preserved the dolphin, if I had had a vessel suitable to the purpose, though it weighed about 10 pounds. However, we did not long enjoy our dolphin feast, when two whales appeared, one on each side of our poor sloop: horror seized the captain and his crew, the
monkeys

monkeys screamed at the sight of these monsters, and sprang to the hold to hide. Though this sight was dangerous to behold so near, yet it pleased my curiosity to see those animals when they at intervals emerged from the deep, to throw up, as they reached the surface, a spout of water as high as some church steeples, then drew air, and sunk again; for the whale cannot live long under water. They both took leave without doing us any damage, and we all thanked God for our preservation.

Next day we had a very hard gale and a heavy sea, and our bark was sadly tossed about, and sprung a leak in the night, which was happily stopped by the assistance of my sheep-skins: next day we lost our topmast: in this terrible situation we were obliged to tie down the helm, and let the vessel drive with the sea. On the 5th day the storm abated, and we were again able to govern the sloop;

sloop; and spying at some distance a large ship, we made towards her, and at noon came up with her. She proved to be a Portuguese bound to Lisbon, on her return from the Brazils. The captain very generously supplied us with a mast. After this we continued our voyage with pleasant weather, till we arrived near the Azores, or Western Islands. When a heavy swell and a rolling sea surrounded us, and our vessel seemed now in imminent danger; being on deck, one of those rolling waves broke against the stern of our sloop, and washed me and two men that were on deck overboard: we were notwithstanding all saved by the timely assistance of ropes, which were thrown out to us: but I had narrowly escaped being seized by a shark. At length we arrived at Portsmouth, having by this time exhausted all our fresh provisions. I had three of my monkeys still surviving, with whom I set out for London,
and

and arrived at my former lodgings in St. Alban's-street.

In a few days I waited on Mr. Butler, who had hitherto been my advocate with his Grace the Duke of Northumberland, thinking that my major's commission might apologize for my sudden return; but to my no small mortification, I found that I had ruined my hopes of future protection in that quarter. What to do now was a matter very alarming, and having no friends to consult with, I gave way to pleasure and gallantry. I purchased a pair of horses, and took daily a ride through St. James's park. Having a servant and horses, besides my rank of major to support, my pistoles daily decreased; till winter drawing nigh, I sold my horses, and embarked on board the Tagus, Captain Innis, for Lisbon, where we arrived in nine or ten days.

I waited on the Marquis of Pombal
the

the prime minister daily for near three weeks, before I could get an audience: when this despotick tyrant told me, he would not pay me the salary that was due; adding, that I had no right to it, as I left the island without leave from court; but if I would go back to St. Jago he would confirm my commission, and order my demands to be paid on my arrival there.

This proposal did not relish well with my disposition; and I freely told him I would not accept the island, if presented to me on condition of residing upon it. Finding the Marquis had no inclination to be just, or generous, I boldly told him I despised the service, and so took leave of the Premier. In two days after I received a message from Mr. Milo, Secretary of State to depart from Lisbon in forty-eight hours, on pain of incurring the displeasure of the State.

Mr.

Mr. Walpole the English ambaffador at that court, could not then learn the motives of this peremptory order. However, his excellency defired me to go on board an English frigate then at anchor in the Tagus, and there rest in safety. I put his orders in execution, and had not been gone above an hour from my inn, as I was informed, when an officer with a guard came there in search of me; and said on being informed that I was gone on board the frigate, that I made a very feasonable retreat.

The frigate was going to Giberaltar, and I went on board of a London merchantman, and had a quick passage home. Still wishing to be established in some service, I applied to Lord Taafe then in London, to whom I was allied. He advised me to go to Holland, and try my fortune in the Dutch service; and gave me a letter of recommendation to General Tripps, who on my

my arrival told me, it was ill planned of his Lordship to send me to him; as it was not in his power to promote me above the rank of sergeant of Dragoons, in which station I might probably grow grey.

My disappointment here obliged me to apply to Sir Joseph Yorke, Ambassador from England to the States of Holland, then residing at the Hague. In this distinguished character, I experienced the liberality and patriotism of a very worthy countryman. He found my situation and circumstances both equally embarrassing, and presented me with a purse and a letter of recommendation to General Cullen in the service of the States of Holland, but then at the German Spa.

I set out, and arrived at that fashionable village; but on enquiring for the General,

General, was informed, that he had been gone some time to Aix la Chappelle; I followed him thither; and putting up at Madame Bugeoise Hotel where he lodged, I announced myself at night, as having a desire of seeing the General next morning, and personally presenting a letter which I was honoured with, by his Excellency Sir Joseph Yorke. The General desired I would send him the letter, which I declined doing on any terms, but requested the honour of delivering it myself.

Here I was disappointed and mortified, as the General would not see me, and set out for the German Spa in company with some distinguished Austrian officers, who prejudiced the General against me, on account of my supposed imposition, when in that service. My misfortunes seemed to encrease as fast as I strove to surmount them.

Pursuing

Pursuing this Irish troop of field officers, I arrived that night at the English tavern at Spa, where those officers and many people of fashion, both English and Irish, were to sup at a public table.

I told the landlord I intended to make one of the party; but the company before mentioned being now returned from the Comedy, they told the landlord, that they objected to my supping with them. The landlord delivered this message in the genteelest manner he could; by saying, it was necessary for admittance, to be introduced by some of the parties residing at this ordinary, as it was not open to every body. I told him I was indifferent about the matter till I procured a proper introducer.

Having ordered a bottle of Burgundy, which I soon drank, it did not in the least affect me, nor elevate my spirits too much. Believe me, my dear Sir, that

I was

I was at this time too much convulsed in my mind to suffer the wine to operate. Being young, active, and possessed of a good sword and my pedigree, I accoutred myself, taking the long roll of parchment in my right hand, the Ambassador's letter in my left, and my sword half drawn hung at my side, as a signal of combat: thus equipped, I entered their room, just as the table was uncovered, determined to fall or resent the insults I had lately received; and throwing the pedigree on the table, it gently rolled open of its own accord and overspread it, which was near three yards long: the surface of the pedigree displayed at one view, about one hundred seals, and signatures of the Irish nobility and gentry.

Having done this, I exclaimed to the company, that those who propagated or circulated my being an impostor, might read their own conviction; as my sword

was

was ready to defend my honour, as well as the dignity of my attestations. All seemed astonished at my resolute perseverance. But on perusing the pedigree, and Sir Joseph Yorke's letter; they seemed surprized and astonished, and with one unanimous voice declared, that I had been ungenerously treated; and likewise undertook by kindness, to remove all prejudices on both sides; amongst those were Mr. Langlois, Mr. Rowley, Mr. Dutton, Lord Finlater and Earl Spencer, since dead. They consulted measures, to redress my many disappointments, by making up a purse of about fifty guineas; and General Cullen gave me a letter of recommendation to his brother, then Colonel of Berwick's regiment of Irish Brigades, at that time quartered at Port Louis in Brittany.

I was now enabled to pursue my French expedition; to facilitate which, I bought a little horse at Spa and proceeded

ceeded to Holland, and waited on Sir Joseph Yorke, who did not approve of my going into the French service; however, as no other prospect offered itself, I was willing to try that at any rate; and having my little horse to dispose of, which was very pretty, though small, I mentioned his goodness to Sir Joseph, telling him that I had rode him in one day, from Antwerp to Amsterdam, about seventy English miles.

Upon this Sir Joseph made the following remark; "If you want to sell your horse to a Hollander, you must not tell him how much he has performed, for he thinks there is that part of his labour lost; in England it would enhance his price, but amongst the Dutch it would lessen it."

However, Sir Joseph procured me a purchaser, and I departed from the Hague: on my arrival at Amsterdam, I met a French brig bound to Nantz in Brittany. Thinking this a very favourable opportunity

tunity of joining Berwick's regiment, I embarked on board, and arriving at the Brill, where the captain was to take in a trifling part of his cargo.

I went on shore and took up my residence at the Rising Sun, kept by a Scotchman, where I passed my dull hours away; and at supper, became acquainted with Baron Wartinleben a captain of Dunlop's Hanoverian regiment, who was then waiting for the Packet-boat, in order to proceed to England; in his agreeable company I drank freely till one o'clock in the morning, when the Baron had notice sent him that the Packet-boat was ready to put to sea, which summons he willingly obeyed, as there was no amusement at the Brill, the bottle excepted.

The day following our brig being ready, we set sail and bid adieu to Holland without reluctance. I must confess that in Holland I was not pleased, as I could

could not see any object that attracted either pleasure or curiosity: the natives are themselves so dull and clumsy, as are all their actions, as well as their buildings without variety; and there is that sameness in their conduct and language, as would soon give foreigners the spleen or melancholy.

I shall take leave of them by informing you, that curiosity led me to one of their churches, where all the men, the minister excepted, wore their hats on their heads at the time of devotion; and their women without distinction had a wooden box or footstool which contained a pan of burning charcoal, which they placed betwixt their legs enveloping it with their petticoats. When they stand up occasionally, a very sultry air circulates throughout the church, which is by no means, in my opinion, so pleasant or salutary, as that incense which the Roman Catholicks burn at their altars.

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The

The civil magistrates in Holland, perform the ceremony of marrying in the town hall, after which it is recorded and valid; but if some of the politer sort of people chuse the ceremony to be afterwards performed in their church, they are at liberty to do it, though it is only matter of form.

Your's,

E. M'G.

L E T.

LETTER, XXXIV.

London, April 12th, 1786.

TO COLONEL _____.

THE next day, being in sight of the Kentish coast, we were forced by a strong westerly gale from that to the coast of Suffolk, and with great difficulty made Læstoffe where we anchored that night, but the wind increasing next morning, it was thought prudent to run for the Port of North-Yarmouth. We hoisted a signal for a pilot, but in vain, it blowing hard in upon the shore, with a very heavy and breaking sea, which prevented the pilots from coming to our assistance; and to anchor here, though not a half a mile from the land, was likewise impracticable.

Inevitable death now presented itself, as we had a very dangerous bar to cross near the harbour's mouth; hundreds crowded to the beach anxious for our safety, as we should imagine, but I am sorry to inform you, that curiosity and hopes of plunder were their motives. Though our brig was small, she struck on the bar with great violence; then rebounding, in a second she struck again, bulged and filled: here we remained some time lashed to the masts, with the French flag hoisted as a signal of distress, torn to pieces, and the sea breaking mountains high over our miserable heads. In this situation we stuck to the wreck for two hours; the poor French captain, being more alarmed than myself, joined with his crew in prayer and tears.

I must confess, Colonel, that I was fool hardy, or at least I did not think myself so totally lost, as I was not above
two

two hundred yards from the beach, which was low and sandy. I strove all in my power to give courage and hopes to my despairing companions, who were determined to stick to the wreck till she went to pieces; finding my admonitions had no effect, I sprang into the sea, and was instantaneously buried in a grave of sand upon the beach, where I was nearly suffocated before I could extricate myself from the beating surges; and should have even then perished had it not been for the timely assistance of the spectators, who dragged me farther on shore; when by the assistance of many large draughts of brandy, I recovered, and casting my eyes on the struggling bark, beheld my companions with greater horror, though I was now myself in safety, than I did when I partook of their danger.

By this time, the brig splitting in the hull, the waves drove her cargo of Dutch cheese and gin on shore in showers, at

H 3 intervals,

intervals, which were as rapidly collected by the well-trained assembly, who are expert in these disasters: some merchants of Yarmouth sent as soon as possible some men to prevent the plunder, but with little success. The lives of the unfortunate were my anxiety; and I now offered twenty guineas reward to any boat that would bring them from the wreck. Several strove, three of the boats overset in the attempt, though none of their crews perished. The fourth succeeded and got on board; and letting their boat drive on shore, they by force, threw the Frenchmen amidst the rolling waves, which soon conveyed them to the beach: those brave fellows soon after jumped into the sea and arrived in safety.

Immediately after this happy delivery the crews surrounded me, demanding their reward, and having about thirty pounds, in my pocket, I was just going
to

to pay them, when it occurred to me, that if I gave them my money I should be distressed myself; and unable to assist the wretched crew, particularly as the goods saved, or the wreck itself would amply reward them; I told them, if they would conduct us to a house of entertainment, I would there satisfy their demands; this done and being refreshed, I drew a note payable to these men, which I made the captain and his three men sign, with which they were satisfied. Here I waited two days in hopes that my portmanteau might be likewise driven on shore, but I was disappointed; and having borrowed a shirt from our landlord on my arrival, my own was by this time washed. Mr. Vine a merchant of Yarmouth, took the captain and his crew to board and lodge in a private house; I paid the captain in the presence of his crew five guineas, being the sum I had agreed to give him for carrying me to

H4

France,

France, taking his receipt witnessed by his men.

I took leave of the captain, promising him I would make his misfortunes known to the French ambassador, on my arrival in London; and taking the stage coach arrived at the White Hart Inn Colchester, where I was rather surprized at the civility of the hostess, as she would not accept any return for the expences I there incurred that night, being informed of my misfortune; she proposed making a collection amongst her acquaintance and neighbours, which with gratitude I declined; and convincing this generous landlady by ocular demonstration that I did not want money, I paid her with heart-felt satisfaction.

On my arrival in London, I waited on Count de Guignes the French ambassador, at his house in Great George Street, Westminster, who with that graceful appearance

appearance of person and address so familiar to him, thanked me for my information; and as I shewed the receipt I had from the captain, the ambassador very generously reimbursed the five guineas. Soon after this, I was informed that a female friend of mine died, and left me 200*l.* in the three per cent. annuities, which I soon sold out: for I was not calculated to lodge, or even let money sleep long in the bank; my disposition led me to circulate it. Having now sufficient cash, I equipped myself in a very genteel manner, and thought I could expect to meet with some encouragement in Brittany.

I set out in the stage coach for Southampton, and there embarked for the island of Guernsey; where, on my arrival, I soon got acquainted with the genteelest families in the island, and was received among them with great hospitality.

Colonel, this small island and the number of little independent Princes that reside on it, puts me in mind of my former luxuries and peregrinations in the Holy Roman Empire, Austria, Italy, France, &c. For in this empire in miniature, which I call Guernsey, you meet with the produce of every known part of the globe in great quantities, and at so moderate a price, that would astonish you. If I am not mistaken, I have drank good Claret at a shilling a bottle. If I had been of a disposition to drink with my new acquired acquaintances, it was not necessary that I should even know the price of wine, or purchase any; but from my honour, my rank of major, &c. &c. and the grand point, being a Hibernian, I wished to shew that I had a disposition equally inclined to hospitality.

Their situation in so fine a climate, the little mountains and sea breezes, afford,

ford this island a more salubrious air than those of many foreign parts resorted to.

Travellers may give you many entertaining accounts, but I would wish in my letters to give some information out of the common line. I have not now time to tell you, why or how it is so, but it is certain, that no part of the world produces such good butter as Guernsey; whether it is owing to their soil, or method of making it, perhaps both, I refer that point to be cleared up by Paulus Emilius Irvin, who was their governor at that time, and a very worthy character: were I to make mention of all those I had the honour to be acquainted with at Guernsey, and the politeness and hospitality of the natives, it would make a volume in itself.

On our passage from Southampton on board the ship which belonged to poor

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Captain

Captain Moran, who was lost in her afterwards with several of the islanders, I became acquainted with Captain Healy and a Swiss merchant; Healy was my countryman, and as he informed me, was brother to Healy Hutcheson, a man of great abilities, and much respected in the Irish House of Commons, in whose company I proceeded for St. Maloes, and from thence to Dinan, in Brittany; where it being Carnival time, we had every night a masqued ball at the house of some one of the principal nobility, to which I was introduced by some officers of the Irish brigades, who had married and resided here.

On Shrove Tuesday, they in some public square in the town erect a gallows, on which they hang a dead goose by the legs: to this place their young gallants repair, mounted on caparisoned horses, they gallop by turns under this gallows, each striving to pull off the head of the
goose

goose from the body; but the horseman is not suffered to stop at the gallows, only to strive to do this in his full speed: many attempt it with such ardour, that they are left sometimes behind their horses suspended to the goose. The fortunate hero, if any, who after many attempts and much labour has force enough to tear the head from the body, hastens to present it to his favourite mistress, who receives it with manifest approbation, and gives that night an elegant entertainment to all their acquaintance.

Those pleasures being drowned in Lent, I hired a horse and set out for Port Louis, and arrived there the second day; when I presented my letter of recommendation from General Cullen, in Germany, to Colonel Cullen, of Berwick's regiment, who received me in a very polite manner, but told me it was wild, and unthinking of his

brother to advise me to travel so far, as it was not in his power to make me any thing higher than a serjeant ; as there could not be any hopes of my getting a commission in a shorter period than four or five years. I halted here two days to refresh myself and horse, during which time I was entertained very agreeably by the corps of officers.

Your's,

E. M'G.

L E T T E R

MAJOR M'GAURAN. 183

LETTER XXXV.

London, April 18th, 1786.

TO COLONEL ———.

I HASTENED back to Dinan, on my return to London. The Westminster election coming on, in 1774, it in some measure amused my thoughts: the candidates were Earl Percy, Lord Thomas Clinton, Lords Mountmorres and Mahon.

As you were not in London, at that time, I will here give you a short account of the part I took in it, that you may once more have an opportunity of laughing at me.

It

It was usual for the contending candidates to display flags, perambulating from their residence daily to the Hustings at Covent-Garden. Passing carelessly by Northumberland house, one day, I saw Dr. Percy giving the colours to a feeble old man, whom I thought very unfit for that office; and though I had for some time lost the Duke and Duchess's protection, still gratitude and zeal for their cause induced me to take them. Preceded by a band of music, I marched in pomp, till I reached as far as Lowe's Hotel, Covent-Garden, in the window of which was seated the Duchess, whom I saluted with the flag, which she graciously returned, waving her handkerchief.

I now proceeded to make a circuit round the garden: Don Quixote never had a more difficult task, for thousands opposed me, nor do I believe that this garden, ever before or since, produced
such

such a quantity of dead dogs, cats, brick-bats, rotten eggs, turnips, cabbages, &c. as were thrown at me; and numbers striving to wrest the colours out of my hand, which I still preserved like a Roman, in spite of the opponent's rabble: till I at last, wearied and faint, arrived safe at the south end of the hustings, where some of the opposite party then on the hustings, violently forced the banner from me, and sacrilegiously tore it to pieces, in the presence of the candidates and sitting magistrates. This I will assure you was the hardest day's work I ever encountered before or since; and what was still worse, I had the misfortune to be robbed of my pocket-book, that contained all my military attestations, which was to me, I must confess, a greater mortification than that of losing the election, had I been a candidate.

After this, I remained some months without friends or support, ruminating
on

on my own prodigality, as well as the inconstancy of mankind.

When the trumpet of Discord echoed across the Atlantic, and soon spread that contagion throughout England; whereupon the British forces, both at home and abroad, were put in motion.

Upon this turbulent occasion, I thought it preferable to die in the field, than to perish in oblivion. Having recourse to my former perseverance, I waited on General Clinton, who was then ordered with Generals Howe and Burgoyne, to America. The General received me with that noble affability and liberality for which he is universally distinguished: on my offering myself as volunteer, he did not disapprove of my loyal and spirited resolution; but desired I would wait on the Earl of Effingham, and solicit that nobleman to give me a recommendation to him, that he might produce it as

testimon

MAJOR M'GAURAN. 187

testimony, when a prospect of promotion presented itself. I accordingly obeyed his orders, and the Earl gave me a letter as follows :

“ S I R,

“ THE bearer, Mr. M'Gauran, has informed me, that he has the honour of being personally known to you; but that you desired a line from me, certifying his being in the Russian service. I assure you, he was on board Admiral Elphinstone's squadron; and during the time he served, he behaved as an active gallant officer, and as a man of spirit.

“ Your's, &c. &c.

“ EFFINGHAM.”

to Gen. Clinton.

Having presented this letter, the General told me, in order to be entitled to pay for my provisions and a passage on board a transport, it was necessary to enlist

enlist in some regiment then in America, or that was going there.

I accordingly went to Justice Goodchild, at Charing-cross, and there got my attestation, having inrolled myself as belonging to the 17th regiment of light dragoons, then embarked at Corke. This done, I waited on Mr. Thomas Butler and through his hands I received a trifling sum from his Grace the Duke of Northumberland. General Preston, Colonel proprietor of the regiment, resided then near Amerham, in Buckinghamshire; and it was necessary to wait on him to procure me a pass and an order for my passage to America. All those affairs being dispatched at the War Office I took once more my leave of London and at night arrived at Portsmouth, very tired, having walked upwards of fifty miles before I chanced to meet a return postchaise. The next day I embarked on board the Prosperous Armilla trans-

port

port, bound for Boston in New England, having on board Dr. Morris and two sons, as likewise the horses and servants belonging to the three Generals. Nothing extraordinary happened, except the loss of a sailor, who fell overboard and was drowned; a famous horse, called Stradler, the property of General Howe, was seized with the staggers, and obliged to be knocked on the head. We reached Boston a few days after the battle of Lexington and Concord: this was the first in America, as likewise where Earl Percy gave manifest proofs of his courage as well as his military skill. Soon after the Generals arrived, as did the 7th regiment of light dragoons. I was now afresh yoked in the same harness with a young corps, chiefly consisting of the most active and smart fellows that Ireland could produce; and though then well disciplined, yet, in this our regiment, every whimsical mode practised by cowards and savages were now introduced; falling

falling flat forwards on the ground to fire, and loading whilst we lay on our backs, were introduced, and daily practised. This exercise on foot, or sprawling on the ground, was ridiculous in my opinion. However, in these harlequin exhibitions, and flogging at intervals, we passed some weeks to our mortification, and the abhorrence of the whole army.

But this method was soon redressed by the Commander in Chief; as it was instituted by an officer in our regiment who assumed to be himself the sole monopolizer of discipline, and subordination; and who, though not an Hibernian by birth, aimed at giving the soldiers life and spirits by flogging them to death.

It would be here impolitic, as likewise impossible for me to give an account of the proceedings of our Generals, or Admirals

mirals, or the aggrandizement of the enemy's forces; being so harneſſed in military duty, and obliged to reſe myſelf on a bare plank in my tent, when Fortune allotted a favourable opportunity.

On the 17th of June, about four o'clock A. M. Capt. Gardner, aid de camp to General Burgoyne, came into our line, and ordered our regiment to be in readineſs to bridle: if I err in this point, I muſt be excuſed, but this was the order we received. The infantry was now embarking in boats; and we remained at our camp in readineſs, when an order came that we ſhould unfaddle: finding by this, that our regiment was not likely to partake of that day's diſerſion, which ſoon began after the royal army was collected in a body, partly from Boſton, and partly from ſhips which arrived two days before in the harbour from Europe. I applied to my Colonel
for

for leave to go a volunteer, which request he granted; but by the time I reached the ferry, the royal army was advanced within musquet shot of Bunker's-hill, from which the Americans were soon dislodged by the almost exhausted assailants. This affair is too well known; and I never wish to be again an eye-witness to the sudden dissolution of so many brave men.

Soon after this carnage, I was promoted to the rank of first Lieutenant of a provincial regiment, called since the Royal Fensible Americans: this promotion was owing to the recommendation of Gen. Clinton and Earl Percy. However, a few days after I had received my commission, I waited on them to return my grateful thanks; when Earl Percy told me to make an estimate of what necessities I wanted to equip me as an officer, adding, that he would make me a present of the requisite sum to purchase them.

I felt

I felt such an effusion of gratitude at so liberal a proposal, that I only had power to thank him, and tell him I would wait on him in a few days. Indeed as our regiment was then only raising, I was not mean or mercenary enough to take his Lordship's proffered cash till I had occasion for it.

Being immediately detached with a party of our new raised and undisciplined recruits, under the command of Captain P——, of the Royal Irish, and Captain C—— of our regiment, to Long Island in Penobscot sound; where Land and my commanders differed much in our military ideas and the treatment of the soldiery; I was by them provoked and led into some trifling errors; and being severely rebuked, for having indulged my men too much; in the heat of passion, still more inflamed by the season and liquor, I very rashly challenged both my commanding officers in the execu-

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tion

tion of their duty. This was a fatal stroke to my then critical situation.

Hereupon I was put under immediate arrest and sent in the first vessel to Boston. On the arrival of the detachment, though I was now languishing in a dysentery and in a delirious state by the quantity of mercury given me by Mr. Higgins, then a surgeon's mate, but since an officer, who mistook my disorder; in this state, I was tried by a Court Martial. Unable to make any defence, and being unacquainted then with the charges exhibited against me I was broke.

Previous to my trial, I wished to postpone it, on account of my indisposition; but it was rather singular that I was denied this indulgence in my relaxed state. Mr. Higgins, sometime after his arrival in England, being interrogated by my acquaintance Dr. Shiel, concerning my state of health, at the time

of my trial, candidly told the doctor that he, Mr. Higgins, thought my disorder too dangerous, but declined reporting me incapable of attending the court, for fear of incurring the displeasure of some individuals. I had nothing but salt beef or pork, and bad bread to nourish me; and I must confess, I was then very sorry that I did not accept of Earl Percy's liberal offer; but it was now too late to claim it. Fresh meat, which could be seldom obtained, sold at two shillings per pound, and the few dollars I had left of my pay was soon exhausted in procuring fuel to preserve me from the inclemency of the weather. In this trying situation, I would certainly have preferred a good bed and a warm room to a red ribbon.

In this deplorable situation, a serjeant's wife who attended me, took me to Dr. Morris, who admitted me as a patient into the General Hospital, where I re-

mained in a delirious fever ; and had only rice water allowed me for eighteen days ; when the very humane phyfician brought me to my fenfes, and allowed me a more nourifhing diet. In a fhort time I recovered fo far as to enable me to leave the hofpital. I then waited on Earl Percy and General Clinton, who advifed me to return to England, and ftrive for employment amongft the new levies. Earl Percy ordered Captain Robinson, of the Prefton man of war, Admiral Graves commander, to pay me five guineas, on my landing at any port in England : his orders were obeyed at Plymouth. I came to Windfor, and petitioned his Majefty, who was graciously pleafed to order his page, Mr. Remus, fince deceafed, to give me ten pounds, and tell me that his Majefty would fpeak to Lord Barrington then Secretary at War, concerning me.

Your's,

E. M'G.

MAJOR M'GAURAN. 197

P. S. On leaving the Hospital, I went to Capt. Cayley, then aid de camp to Gen. Howe, soliciting him to procure me an order from the General to the Commissary for a few rations of fire-wood, but this request was denied, which obliged me to fix a resolution of asking no favours, or remission of my sentence, in that part of the globe.

LET-

LETTER XXXVL

London, April 25, 1786.

To COLONEL ____.

IN my last, I informed you of the success of my petition to his Majesty; in consequence of which I set off for London, to make a personal application to Lord Barrington, who told me, that he would pay attention to his Majesty's orders in that point, without which he said, it would not have been in his power to have rendered me any service, notwithstanding I had procured recommendation from Lord Fairford, and his father, the Earl of Hillsborough.

I lost some time, betwixt hope and despair, loitering about London and Windsor, and having obtained a letter of recommendation from Commodore Walsingham to Lord Sandwich, in hopes
of

of being employed in the Marine service, when he told me it was not in his power to serve me. Upon this disappointment, necessity induced me to set my mechanical genius at work in order to attract some notice, and after long study and labour, I constructed a small cannon on four brass wheels, so as to have no recoil from the force or explosion of the gunpowder. When I had brought this piece of artillery to perfection, I waited on General Conway, and on a table in his study fired it off, having fixed a shilling standing on its edge at the breech of the cannon; and although the explosion was great, the shilling remained unshaken, or without even falling flat on the smooth table which supported it. The general approving of my ingenuity, made me a handsome present, telling me at the same time, to lay the model before the Board of Ordnance, where if it proved of utility, I might hope to be liberally rewarded.

Thus elated with flattering ideas, my whole time was devoted to this invention, in order to construct one of more magnitude; and having lost much time and at no small expence, I at length finished two of different calibres, when unfortunately the house wherein I lodged took fire, and my being absent, in moving the goods, my whole train of artillery was accidentally or designedly lost or stolen; my chagrin on this misfortune, and my exertions to get otherwise employed, has hitherto prevented me from attempting the constructions of any more models.

Soon after this disaster, I applied to Mr. Burke; he recommended me to a merchant at Bristol, who behaved very polite to me in consequence of my recommendation, and strove to get me some civil employment, but his efforts proved ineffectual. Winter coming on fast, I was seized with a violent rheumatism,

tism, and was advised to go to Bath for the benefit of the waters.

My finances and constitution being now very much on the decline, I by chance came acquainted with Mr. Moreau, who resided then at Bath and is now master of the Ceremonies at Cheltenham. This gentleman procured me the bathing gratis; I had free access to his table; in short, he and his lady were a father and mother to me. Mr. Moreau thinking that riding on horseback might be conducive to the restoration of my health, recommended me to Mr. Scrace riding master, who gave me the use of a horse gratis, and in this manner I passed the winter and spring. Several of my countrymen then residing at Bath encouraged me to remain no longer inactive, as all England was now preparing to learn the use of arms, and to act on the defensive, a gallic invasion being much dreaded in; this confusion, while commissions were

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daily

daily from the War Office to school boys and apprentices, I once more entertained hopes of employment; and being acquainted with Mr. Bromfield of Wardour street, and his friend Dr. Lucas, these gentlemen recommended me to Messrs. Moss and Marsh at the War Office, the former was Secretary to Lord Amherst, and as my advocate succeeded so far in my behalf, as to get me leave to be appointed an Ensign, on condition of raising fifteen men, or paying 150*l.* for my commission.

Notwithstanding this stipulated indulgence, I was far from an appointment, for without money it was impossible to raise men; I applied to several agents and brokers for a loan, but in vain. At last I thought I might raise the 150*l.* by subscription amongst my countrymen, but after much labour and loss of time, I failed in this pursuit likewise. Then

I wrote

I wrote to Earl Hillsborough, appointed secretary of state, praying his lordship to appoint me King's messenger, as I thought myself from my activity, knowledge of countries and languages, well calculated for that service.

His lordship very politely answered my letter, by saying that the appointing of King's messengers belonged to the Lord Chamberlain, and sometimes to the secretaries of State; that his lordship had many pre-engagements for such places, which he did not think suitable or worthy my acceptance.

Drove rather to despair by these disappointments, I again wrote to his lordship to inform him that my circumstances were such as required immediate assistance; without which, I could no longer exist. He then very liberally sent me a certain sum for my temporary support.

Soon after hostilities commenced against the Dutch, and on reading an advertisement in the paper, intimating that an interpreter was wanted on board a privateer, I offered myself according to the direction, and was referred to Abraham Rawlinson Esq. member of Parliament for Lancaster, then residing in London, who seemed pleased at my apparent abilities and address, and made me the following liberal proposals: viz. That I should be paid five guineas per month salary during the cruize, and eight men's share of prize money, mess with the captain of the ship, and be allowed five guineas to carry me from London to Lancaster, on condition that I would act as interpreter and captain of Marines; to which I agreed, and we reciprocally signed articles.

Mr. Rawlinson advanced the five guineas for my travelling charges, and although it was in the month of January, I
set

set out on this expedition; and arriving in the stage at Lancaster, I had a letter from Mr. Rawlinson, to Messrs. White-fide and Co. who were owners of the Admiral Barrington privateer, then ready for sea. I produced my recommendation, and the merchants received me with the highest approbation, expressing their hopes of being enriched by my abilities, and were equally satisfied with my prior agreement; they lodged me at their coffee-house, where I had liberty to live as extravagantly as I pleased.

However, I assure you I did not trespass on their generous indulgence. I remained at Lancaster several days, where I was treated with the greatest freedom and hospitality, and amused myself at intervals among the fair sex; and I can with justice inform you, that at Lancaster I have seen many tempting objects;

objects; some of whom would be an ornament in brighter circles.

Our ship being well victualled and manned, we set sail; our instructions were to cruize in the Western Ocean between Ireland and Newfoundland, in order to intercept some of the homeward-bound Dutch ships from St. Eustatia, which was expected to sail north-about. Two months passed here, when our instructions obliged us to sail into the North Sea, and cruize off the Hebrides in expectation of the above ships, where we might cruize in vain, as Lord Rodney had taken all the prizes and left us blanks only. Our ship, though a very safe vessel, was not calculated for a privateer, being the worst sailer that ever was fitted for the purpose, as we could not come up with any thing we chased; nor yet were we able to run away if necessity required it.

Off

Off the north west part of Ireland, distant about forty leagues, we espyed a large vessel to all appearance, to which we gave chase; and about mid-day our officers observing this huge vessel standing towards us, a council of war was held, many objected to attacking a ship of such force; however, at length we summoned heroick resolution enough to engage her at all events. Many were our conjectures, some would have her to be a Batavian ship; I was always blessed with a penetrating eye, and taking the spying glass, I perceived to my great disappointment, that this supposed rich Indiaman was nothing more than a barren rock; however, I concealed the mistake. It was now three o'clock P. M. every man had been in his station since eight in the morning, and being tired I quitted my post on the quarter-deck and very quietly went down to the cabbin and jumped into bed; my conduct soon got vent upon deck and I was in a moment branded with cowardice.

dice. Indeed the captain and several of the officers came into the cabin and treated me with the most scurrilous language.

All this I bore with patience, but was obliged to have recourse to a woollen night-cap, with which I stopped my mouth to prevent me from laughing. Our doctor, Mr. Diegnan, a countryman of mine, came to my bedside to expostulate with me on the impropriety of my conduct, and very strenuously intreated me to get up and support the honour of Ireland, which would be irretrievably lost. Adding, that the captain swore he would throw me overboard rather than I should be entitled to my share of the prize.

The poor doctor finding his solicitations vain, in the height of his Patriotick phrenzy, behaved in an ungentleman like manner. I interrupted him by desiring

firing he would feel my pulse; he complied with my request, and hastily told me I had symptoms of cowardice.

The sun and the rock being westward of us, they were not as yet sensible of the deception. I again clapped my pistols to my side, and went on the quarter-deck, where I was saluted with the appellation of coward from every quarter; my indignation seemingly roused at this treatment, I told them, I would fight the bravest man on board if they would put me on shore on that barren rock, in the pursuit of which they blindly spent the day.

Bowing to the doctor and pointing to the rock, I asked him if he could not perceive symptoms of adamant there. Upon this the captain and some of the inferior officers, who were through ignorance prejudiced against every thing that was Irish; jealous of my discernment,

ment, and striving to insult me, they fired a broad side at this d--m--d Irish rock, as they so exclaimed.

I intimated an intention of quitting the ship as soon as we made any port, which was now necessary as we wanted fresh water, and Stornway in Lewis, one of the Hebride Islands, being fixed upon, as we were steering for that port the captain told our doctor, that if I quitted the ship, he would oblige the Islanders to deliver me up, and that he would tye me to the shrouds where I should receive one hundred lashes. You may judge my situation under the command of such an ignorant desperado, who breathed nothing but flogging or throwing overboard.

The reason Stornway was fixed upon was judicious, as King's ships are very seldom there; consequently a privateer did not at this place stand in so much danger

danger of having her crew impressed. Notwithstanding we were very near the harbour, Boreas assisted my cause, for the wind chopping about, blowing hard, and enveloped by the islands, it was found expedient to run for the Orkney, or Orcade islands, we arrived safe at Stromness. Here we found the frigate—Captain Kent, who was there waiting for a re-inforcement to convey a fleet of merchantmen into the Baltick. The appearance of the frigate humbled the arrogance of my tyrant, who in the evening agreed on shore, that he was willing I should quit the ship. Upon this amity seemed to be again restored, but next day the frigate hoisted a signal for sailing; upon which my captain refused to send my bedding or wearing apparel on shore, and had the bare faced impudence to go among the inhabitants who were naturally inclined to hospitality, threatening them and their town with destruction after the departure of the frigate,

frigate, for sheltering me. This struck the natives with a panick, and some of them even refused me nourishment.

In this dilemma I had resolution to go on board the frigate, accompanied by some of the principal inhabitants, who jointly with me lodged a complaint against our captain, which was well received by Captain Kent, who had predetermined to impress our crew; and he ordered Captain Jackson to deliver up all my effects which he retained on board. This done, Captain Kent weighed anchor, and sailing into the inner harbour, dropped anchor close by our ship, which the crew perceiving, determined if possible to escape the intended impress, and arming themselves, well provided with cartouche boxes and ammunition, betook themselves to the mountains, but being pursued by the frigate's crew and marines, were after a short resistance, obliged to submit.

Captain

Captain Kent gave back as many sailors and officers as he thought necessary to navigate the ship, home to Lancaster. Captain Jackson and the remnant of his crew, were reduced from despotism to humility and obedience, and sailed home to tell the merchants of the misfortunes that befel them, imputing that I was the cause of all from Stromness.

I went to Kirkwall, where I embarked on board Capt. Sinclair, bound for Leith, near Edinburgh, and on my arrival in that city, I found myself much mistaken, as report had prejudiced me against it, and was repeatedly represented to me as a dirty hole. But Edinburgh is as much the reverse as any town in Europe: it stands on the declivity of several very high hills, and the streets which are descending to the adjoining valleys, are washed every morning, and consequently clean in wet or dry weather. The new city,

city, which was then building, promised to be very little inferior to any I have seen. Colonel if you have any young daughters, I would recommend Edinburgh as a place where they may mend their pace; for I assure you that the ladies of that city walk with more ease and elegance than those of any other, within the circle of my travels.

After some days rest I left Edinburgh, and set out with the coach for Lancaster, where I found the merchants and owners of the unfortunate ship, then lying in the river, embittered at my conduct; however, I in vain strove to exculpate myself, in order to receive five guineas, or one month's wages due to me, which they declined, threatening to imprison me for damages.

Finding Lancaster no longer agreeable, I set out for London, where on my arrival I waited on Count Belgioso, the Imperial

Imperial Ambassador, and proposed to him a plan for establishing a fishery in the North Seas, which would supply all the Austrian Netherlands with plenty of salt cod. The Ambassador referred me to Mr. Songa the Imperial Consul, who told me to go to Brussels, and make my proposals there. I accordingly embarked, and landing at Ostend proceeded to Brussels, where I immediately waited on Prince Staremberg Prime Minister of State, who approved of my plan, and referred me to Baron Crumpippin, Secretary of State, Baron Caufier, Treasurer, several financiers, the Board of Commerce, &c. &c. Many consultations and examinations passed upon this important affair; and several people in very eligible situations envied the prospect of my rapid fortune, now that my plan had met the approbation of the State. Subjects were at liberty to exert themselves in promoting an object of so much utility. I applied to several merchants, who all seemed

seemed desirous of eating the fish, but, cat like, they would not wet their feet to catch it, nor risque any money in promoting it, although they had an open and good opportunity of disposing of a great quantity of gin, brandy, tobacco, and flax-seed; and these in Flanders are very cheap, and the best commodities to export and vend in the Western or Hebride islands. The merchants wanted a sample of the fish before they would determine.

Eager in this pursuit, I returned to London, and again applied to Mr. Songa, who procured me about fourteen tun of salt cod and ling, which was embarked on board ships for Ostend, and I was supercargo thereof; tho' it was consigned to a merchant at Bruges, who acted his part in a very lazy and indolent manner. I shipped myself at Margate, and arrived at Ostend before the fish. Soon after a ship with part of it made her appearance;

pearance; but great difficulty obstructed the landing, as ships were only admitted to come to the quay by rotation. It was by this time February, and at the eve of Lent: to accomplish which, I posted to Brussels, where I obtained an order from the Board of Trade to the burgo-master, ordering him to have the fish landed immediately, which was a very extraordinary indulgence.

The frost setting in retarded the boats, which were to carry it by canals: in this trying embarrassment, the merchant to whom it was consigned gave me but very little assistance; at length it arrived at Brussels, and as the fishmongers of that city have a charter, which was granted them by the emperor Charles the Fifth, by which they are entitled to have a sample of all sorts of fish given to them for sale, previous to its being offered to the public. This villanous society are sure

to condemn all fish with which they are not party concerned themselves: by these means the adventurer is ruined, and the public are prevented from procuring that article at a moderate price: notwithstanding, I retailed near two ton at a very great profit, to the English residing there, amongst which were several of the nobility. I paid Mr. Fortemps, of Brussels, for the two tons, as he delivered it to me, the cargo being consigned to him.

In this laborious excursion, and the expences attending it, I was obliged to borrow fifteen pounds sterling of Mr. Vanisingham, the Danish consul at Ostend, who caused me to be arrested at Brussels, before I could sell fish to that amount. This transaction of his was thought harsh and ungenerous, having no bail, I was thrown into Trau-
renburg prison, and allotted the very
apartment in which a certain English
duke

duke resided many years, on a similar occasion. This news was soon conveyed to Mr. Songa, in London, who immediately gave the merchant at Brussels power to dispose of the remainder in the best manner he could. I was in a very short time deprived of my liberty and employment, and would probably have remained to this day, had not a very disagreeable circumstance, though then a very fortunate one, procured me my liberty; this was my languishing under a great infirmity.

At Brussels, if a creditor confines a debtor, who is afflicted with a curable disorder, the creditor is obliged to find him in the necessary physicians, as well as medicine. This being my case, rather than involve himself in more expences, he relinquished his suit, which was a very judicious conduct of his, as a prisoner is at liberty to chuse

his own physician; and I was, on examination of the Faculty, here restored to liberty; and believe me, I never after went to enquire how Mr. Fortemps buttered his fish. I only mention this passage, in hopes a similar law may some day pass throughout his Britannick Majesty's dominions, for the relief of the oppressed part of the community. Colonel, I know you are acquainted with the two worthy champions of liberty, I mean Earl of Effingham and Lord Beauchamp: their abilities and exertions may bring forth a bill of this sort, which would prevent numbers from perishing by pestilential disorders in our prisons.

Brussels, I may say Flanders and Brabant, were all in a bustle to receive their Imperial highnesses the great Duke of Russia and his consort, who were expected there on their grand tour, travelling by the title of Count and Countess du Norde.

Norde. I thought this a very favourable opportunity of raising a temporary supply, as a reward for past services; with this resolution I set out for Ghent, about the time that this illustrious couple were expected there, Prince de Ligne, commander in Chief in these parts was sent to Paris to conduct the Duke and Duchess to Flanders. The *gouvernante* of the Netherlands, an Arch Duchess of Austria, and sister to the queen of France, and the reigning emperor of Germany, with her consort, Prince Albert of Saxony, commonly called Duke of Saxe Teiuschen, went as far as Ostend to welcome the Russian travellers into the Austrian territories. There was so much ceremony and galas on this occasion, that I almost despaired of getting access to the Great Duke of Russia.

In this embarrassment, I applied to Count Dalton, my countryman, who was

Colonel commandant of Clerfy's regiment, then on duty at Ghent, and was to parade the next day in gala for the inspection of this royal groupe. The Colonel told me to be on the parade betimes next morning; adding that he would recommend me to the Prince de Ligne, who would get me access. And it was very fortunate for me, that Count Dalton pitched upon the Prince, he being intimate with the Russian family.

This evening their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester arrived at Ghent, where they only rested that night, and next morning set out for Brussels, on their way to the German Spa. I cannot here ascertain the reason why they hurried through Flanders and Brabant privately, without joining in the splendid festivity and diversions prepared for the before mentioned personages. Next morning I was on the parade, when the regiment made a grand appearance, preceded

preceded by a fine band of musick ; and placing themselves opposite the hotel which was appointed for the reception of the royal travellers, the Imperial colours were born away in triumph from the centre of the regiment, and placed one on each side of a balcony belonging to the hotel, as a signal to distinguish the royal apartments.

By this time couriers arrived at intervals, and Prince de Ligne appeared on the parade, to whom Count Dalton recommended me. The Prince promised to procure me an audience : at length they arrived, attended by twenty carriages, which contained the suite of the Count and Countess du Norde; but the *toute ensemble* amounted to upwards of five hundred carriages, preceded by couriers and running footmen, whose constant cracking of whips made a disagreeable noise, though it is the custom in these parts.

The Prince came and told me that he had mentioned me to the Count du Nord, who desired him to tell me he would speak to me the next day at Brussels, on his arrival there. But how to get to Brussels was to me a difficult task, it being thirty-three miles distant, and all the horses on that road were engaged for the Russian and Austrian families. The Count du Nord employed one hundred and fifty horses at every stage, so that it was impossible for me to procure one at any rate, being weak and in pain. I had resolution to set out that evening on foot, and travelled about nine miles, when fortunately a fine English horse, with a saddle and bridle on, pursued me full speed: I stopped at a turnpike gate till he came up; I laid hold of him, and mounting, I galloped to Brussels, where I was informed that the horse was the property of a taylor of that city, who had rode him that morning towards Ghent. I resigned the horse to the claimants,

ants, well satisfied with the generous assistance he afforded me. I must here conclude, and in my next begin with the Count du Nord.

Your's, &c.

E. M'G.

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LET.

LETTER XXXVII.

London, May 4, 1786.

NEXT day the royal cavalcade made their entry ; the Count and Countess du Norde, were in a manner constantly occupied with the visits of the grantees, by which, and their stay being but three days, an interval for my introduction seemed impracticable. But determined to force an opportunity, I placed myself at the foot of the gallery leading to the apartments, and accosted his Imperial highness by telling him, that I was the person whom Prince de Ligne had recommended to him at Ghent.

The

The Count took me by the arm, and led me into the gallery with a familiarity and condescension truly flattering, informing me, that he had read of my name in the annals of the war, and was pleased to see it enrolled amongst those who fought so bravely against the Turks; and promised, if I went to Russia, he would get my rank of captain confirmed, and exert his interest with the Empress his mother to forward my promotion; and as a proof of his royal intentions, desired his purse-bearer to give me fifty guineas. His orders being executed in his presence; he then withdrew. His Highness is rather of a low size, and was at that time apparently in a decline: the Countess, his consort, was young and handsome, of the middle size, rather *en bon point*, had fair hair, blue eyes, a ruddy complexion, and a graceful mien, being pregnant of her first child, which gave her a still more majestic appearance; indeed the *toute ensemble* did not seem to

any adventitious aid, as Nature had given her sufficient charms to captivate the eye. Their route lay now through Holland, on their way to the German Spa.

I repaired thither, in hopes of having more leisure of throwing myself in the Count's presence to attract his attention, but was here disappointed.

The Count could, in my opinion, enjoy but little pleasure in hastening through every place, as if an enemy was in pursuit of him: for, though an invalid, as I before mentioned, he gave a public ball and breakfast at Spa, and only slept there three nights, when he set out for High Germany.

I must inform you that this was a favourite place of mine, and I oftentimes wished to settle in or near this little romantic village, which is surrounded by heath-covered mountains, with a small trout

trout stream running through it. There is a company here of managers or proprietors of a public room for balls and breakfasts, called Vauxhall: but the greatest emoluments arise from a gaming table, which was here permitted and patronized by the late Prince and Bishop of Liege, in whose principality it lies, and who was said to be a party concerned in a bank established there for the support of gaming. These proprietors of the bank had great profits from the different sums they annually gave in towards its aggrandizement.

With an intent to try my fortune and lodge my little capital in it, I went to Vauxhall, and desired to speak with the treasurer, who came to me whilst waiting for him in the coffee-room, and desired to know my business. Being interrupted by waiters, sweeping maids, &c. I told him, if he would withdraw to a private room, I would there inform him, which he

he in a very timid manner declined, and left me abruptly. His behaviour astonished me, and I returned to my lodgings, where I had scarce refreshed myself with a glass of Burgundy, when a man, in a kind of regimental coat, who had in some respects the appearance of a serjeant, came and informed me I must depart from thence in twenty-four hours. This messenger was sent by the Lieutenant, a little officer, who acted at Spa as a kind of civil and military governor: and having about a dozen shabby soldiers under his direction, he assumed the title of Commandant, and on many occasions, (not in some respects unfamiliar to mine) behaved as despotic as any African prince to several strangers of distinction.

Two instances of this sort happened of late:—An English Protestant clergyman of reputation, who had resided there some years, had notice sent him to depart immediately, without knowing the reason why:

why: as was likewise a French nobleman. This arbitrary and inhospitable treatment is rather extraordinary, particularly to British subjects, in a poor village, whose existence depends on the resort of the English, who drink the waters, and in lieu enables the natives to drink good Burgundy, which I preferred to the sulphurous cups of the Pohon or Geronster.

My indignation roused at this peremptory order, I determined to leave Spa, and next morning hired a horse, and set out for the Prince of Liege's country palace distant about thirty miles, near which I arrived at night, having a bad horse and a miserable saddle for my attendants. I rested at a shabby inn, and next morning demanded an audience of his highness the Prince Bishop. His pages wanted to know my business, that they might report it, but I would not satisfy them in this; and finding him dif-

difficult of access. I applied to the chaplain of his household and informed the Reverend Father, that something had for a short time hung heavy on my mind, which at times alarmed me very much; but believed if I could get admittance to his highness the Right Reverend Father in God, to reveal my afflictions, I had flattered myself with the hopes of being comforted.

The priest alarmed at my confession, made me set down to take some chocolate, whilst he hastened to the bishop to inform him of my penitent resolution; being admitted into his highness's presence, he asked my country; I had scarce time to answer him, when he added, "I suppose you to be an Hibernian, and a Roman catholick, I answered in the affirmative; he then asked me how long it was since I had been to my last confession, I told him, that I had not been since the revolt in America. This startled
both

both the bishop and his chaplain, who exclaimed, that I was a lost man: I joined in their opinion, and said that I intended to reform and do penance, and that no place suited my devout intentions so well as the Capuchin convent at Spa, as I had a great respect for the venerable fathers; but that a peremptory order from the commandant to leave it frustrated my designs.

The good bishop gave me a letter to the guardian of the Capuchin convent at Spa, desiring me to go back and stay there as long as I pleased; saying, God forbid, I should hinder any man in forwarding his own salvation; and taking his leave, added that he hoped I would live more comfortably than I had done for some time past: indeed my countenance and circumstances seemed to promise both, for at Spa we were supplied with as fine mutton from Ardene forest as any part of the world can produce, green
peas

peas were then in season; and I daily procured a dish of fine trout, which I caught myself with the assistance of a bit of wire to the tops of my stockings, placing them in the narrow windings of the rivulet, and with a pole chased the fish into the stockings.

Fowls were good and cheap, and sallet in plenty; on those favorites of mine, with a bumper of Burgundy, at intervals, I strove to recruit my relaxed constitution, and I can assure you that it had the desired effect. The guardian afterwards told me, the reason of my being ordered to leave Spa arose from a supposition, the wretched treasurer had entertained, from my desiring to speak to him in private, that I had an intent perhaps to rob him, as he had then the cash belonging to the bank about his person, and that the commandant and treasurer had been severely reprimanded.

Soon

Soon after I left Spa on my return to England, I at Liege got acquainted with Mrs. Scawen, grand-daughter to Lady Albemarle, who gave me a very strong recommendation; as she knew it was in her ladyship's power to procure me some place. Her nephew the Duke of Richmond being then appointed master of the ordnance, and her grand-son Lord Keppel president at the Admiralty office. I can assure you Colonel, that this letter gave me great hopes, and spurred my return to England.

With this intent I set out for Brussels, at the time when the Emperor had commissioners in all parts of Brabant and Flanders, taking estimates of all the lands, plate, and effects of the convents and nunneries, in order to abolish their charters and enrich himself; in which he succeeded by managing his reform with so much dexterity, that very unfamiliar to Henry the Eighth of England, he

he filled his coffers without blood-shed; but notwithstanding the facility with which he affected his avaricious scheme, it is certain that he dispersed and exposed to wander many seminaries of both sexes, which are now scattered at liberty very unfit to mix with the public, a burthen to themselves and their friends, who would, if permitted to remain within these walls, to which they were habituated, do more honour to his reign.

This is my opinion of these transactions, but as his Imperial majesty is a disciplinarian, I think he should have taught the old and infirm priests and nuns to walk before he made them fly, or at least grant them more advantageous terms, when he possessed himself of their *ne plus ultra*.

In these distracted times I retired to a place called Meerbeck to see a relation of mine, Anthony M'Gauran who

was

was then a canon, and served sixty years in priests orders. Here I met a rural and warm reception with my venerable countryman, who one day as we walked in his garden, exclaimed that he wished he had never left his native country, as every moon brought new revolutions in church and state.

A mile from Meerbeek, is a small town called Ninove, where it is said, that Jonas emerged from the whale's belly. Ninove is low, a place of very little trade; there is a small river runs through it, but so inconsiderable that it is not navigable for small boats, and very unlikely for whales to have resorted thither; however, I will not contradict the tradition, as my aged guide informed me that the fine fertile country now surrounding, was formerly part of the sea.

You

You would perhaps here expect an account of Brussels, which would be worth relating, if it was not so universally known. It is the capital of Brabant, lays on an ascent, and is surrounded by a strong rampart, the necessaries of life are cheap and good in quality. The French language is here the most prevalent, and the natives think themselves in dress and politeness, little inferior to the Parisians. They have many superb churches and palaces.

From the canons I returned to Ghent the capital of Flanders, a noble city, well supplied with provisions at a very moderate price; the streets are large and well paved, always clean and pleasant. It stands upon several islands, their cathedral is deemed very little inferior to any in Europe; near it stands an old prison, wherein they inform you, that the Roman daughter suckled her father, who was condemned to be starved.

At

At this place I got acquainted with Mr. Silas Dean, minister from the United American states to the states of Holland, who assured me, if I would go into the American service, I could there expect rapid promotion, as men of abilities he knew were wanting. I thanked him for his good advice, but told him as my ancestors suffered by their loyalty, I intended adhering to their maxims, and would rather enjoy the smiles of my sovereign in preference to an estate at Niagara, for notwithstanding I had been unfortunate, still I did not think myself justified in deserting Britain and joining an enemy of less reputation; particularly as his Majesty had expressed an inclination of restoring me. After this, his excellency and two English gentlemen his associates withdrew from the table at which we were seated, and disgusted at my zealous obstinacy, left me *solo*.

Colonel,

Colonel, you will perhaps think it singular that I many times saw these two gentlemen which I have just mentioned, creep on the terrace at Windsor, in hopes by their smiling countenance, and affected dissimulation, to receive a royal look *enpassant*.

This scene happened *au caffè militaire*, at Ghent: I was next morning in confidence informed by Colonel Dalton that the male contents, intended trying my metal, to accomplish which, the landlord, at whose house Mr. Dean then lodged, was set on the discovery of my abilities; who though a shop-keeper, was besides a fencing master, and on passing accidentally by the door, I went in to purchase a pair of gloves, when he introduced the subject of fencing and asked if I was an *amateur*; I replied in the affirmative, when he presented a pair of foils, saying, "Will you venture a pair of gloves on the first hit?" I told him I was in a bad

state of health for fencing, but as he seemed more ardent to display his abilities in that science than in the sale of his merchandize, I complied with his request, and taking a foil, I desired him to play loose. My guard being elevated, and he too eager to hit me, he unluckily run on my foil, the button of which hit him plump in the eye, and put a blind conclusion to our combat. Some hours after I met the Colonel, who jocosely told me, that his apprehensions concerning me were soon removed, as my ocular operation on the haberdasher, had gained me continental fame, and security from future attacks. Taking leave of him as being instrumental to the reception I met with from the Count de Norde, I set out in the barge for Bruges, and on my arrival at the English coffee-house, there I heard the servants busied in ordering dinner for Colonel C--ll--t; my memory being quick, it immediately occurred to me that this was my prosecu-

tor on the American expedition to Long Island, and according to the waiter's description of him, I was convinced he was the man, being then in company with the Reverend Mr. Butler and Counsellor Gould, both Englishmen of great understanding, to whom I related the whole of my misfortunes in the British Army.

I consulted those gentlemen, who advised me to act with prudence, but they thought me injured and entitled to some satisfaction; their wise admonitions checked my warmth, and ringing the bell, I called for the Colonel's servant, desiring him to inform his master that Major M-Gauran wished to speak with him. I do not believe my former captain had any idea that it was his old lieutenant who desired an interview, but being admitted, the recollection of my person struck him forcibly; He seemed much agitated, perhaps from his lady's pregnancy, who was then present, and his

his being probably doubtful of my intentions.

I interrupted the silent scene by telling him that my sentiments were free from animosity, and all I wished for in reparation for past injuries was only a letter from him to Sir Charles Gould, advocate general, to solicit my restoration. He told me he would be in London in a few weeks, and would personally accompany me to Sir Charles and to the secretary at war, where he would in my presence declare that he would not have prosecuted me, had he foreseen the severity of my sentence: we parted, and I have not seen him since.

I will here conclude, and in my next give you an account of my progress in England, till then adieu.

Your's,

E. M'G.

LETTER XXXVIII.

London, May 30, 1786.

TO COLONEL _____

I Took leave of Flanders fully determined never to visit it again in the quality of a fish dealer; and on my return to London waited on Lady Albemarle, who politely informed me, that at the time the Duke of Richmond and Admiral, now Lord Keppel came into office, she gave them a promise that she would not solicit either for places or pensions.

About this time I received a letter, from a friend, in which he informed me that the office of master gunner of Windsor Castle was vacant, and the appointment in the gift of the Duke of Montague, advising

advising me at the same time to apply for it, which I did, but without effect.

The anxiety which preyed on my mind in consequence of my late loss and disappointments, brought on a severe fit of illness; which, however, the natural goodness of my constitution at length overcame; and on my recovery, hearing that a proper person was wanted at Eton, to instruct the scholars in military discipline, I applied to the Reverend Mr. Forster there, who immediately put some of his pupils under my tuition, among which were Sir George Wombwell and the honourable Master Craven. I besides taught the Marquis of Huntly, Earl of Barrymore, Lord Kingsborough's sons, and several more young gentlemen of distinction.

I accordingly fixed my residence at Windsor, at which place the Queen's or second regiment of foot being quartered,

tered, it occurred to me, to give in proposals to the corps of officers, to teach them the small sword, on terms proportionable to their rank in the regiment. Most of them approving of my plan, commenced scholars, and continued to take lessons till they were ordered to Gibraltar. And here gratitude demands I should express the great obligations I am under to that experienced veteran Major Gray, for the encouragement and support I met with from that corps, which joined to the income I drew from the scholars at Eton, afforded me a comfortable subsistence; but soon after the regiment left Windsor, the military spirit subsided at Eton, and I found it necessary once more to remove in search of employment.

London being my general rendezvous, I accordingly repaired thither, and in July last applied to Sir Henry Clinton, who,
in

in consideration of my embarrassed situation signed a memorial in my behalf, to Sir George Young, who I am well informed, ordered his private secretary to place mine among such memorials as merited consideration upon any vacancies that might happen.

This interval has afforded me, my dear Sir, sufficient leisure to obey the friendly injunctions you laid on me when you returned me all my letters. I have accordingly arranged and connected them into a regular series, as well as I could; but many interesting anecdotes have doubtless escaped my memory, as I kept no journal of the incidents which befell me in the early part of my life.

I shall only add in favour of the preceding memoirs, that however deficient in other respects, they possess one merit: that of being entirely true. For the rest
I trust

I trust to the impartiality and candour of a generous public, for that liberality and support I have hitherto sought from the great and powerful in vain.



FINIS

E R R A T A

Particular Business obliging the Author to be absent at the Time the Sheets came from the Press, he is extremely sorry to say, that through the Inattention of the Person whom he employed to revise them, several Errors and Omissions will be found, which he requests the Reader to rectify.

—The following are the most remarkable :

Title Page, for *three* Volumes read *two*.

Page.	Line.	
6	—	24 read <i>in that part of Spain, &c.</i>
50	—	6 for <i>five</i> read <i>fifty</i> .
73	—	22 for <i>Congregation</i> read <i>Crowd</i> .
122	—	5 after <i>parted</i> , add <i>which was</i> .
	—	7 <i>than for its cost</i> .
127	—	16 omit the Words <i>but notwithstanding</i> .
132	—	5 for <i>Pretentions</i> read <i>Professions</i> .
146	—	11 for <i>showery</i> read <i>snowy</i> .
	—	19 add <i>despot</i> to the End of the Line.
153	—	6 for <i>themselves</i> read <i>theirs</i> .
154	—	9 for the <i>enraged Genoese, &c.</i> read the <i>Populace enraged at, &c.</i>
158	—	10 for <i>Galley</i> read <i>Chebeck</i> .
174	—	18 omit the Words <i>Sense after consideration</i> and substitute <i>other consideration</i> .
176	—	15 omit <i>with</i> .
187	—	10 after <i>suspended</i> omit <i>where it happened</i> .
190	—	6 after <i>Italian</i> add <i>seamen</i> .
196	—	14 <i>higher</i> read <i>lighter</i> .
197	—	8 read <i>way</i> .
199	—	19 read <i>the body of</i>
213	—	14 for <i>attempted</i> read <i>intended</i> .
216	—	24 after the Words <i>by her</i> add <i>order</i> .
240	—	3 for <i>Nature</i> read <i>Truth</i> .

1. The first part of the book is devoted to a general history of the world, from the beginning of time to the present day. It is written in a simple and plain style, and is intended for the use of schools and families.

2. The second part of the book is devoted to a history of the United States, from the first settlement to the present day.

3. The third part of the book is devoted to a history of the various nations of the world, from the first settlement to the present day.

4. The fourth part of the book is devoted to a history of the various nations of the world, from the first settlement to the present day.

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